

COMFORT

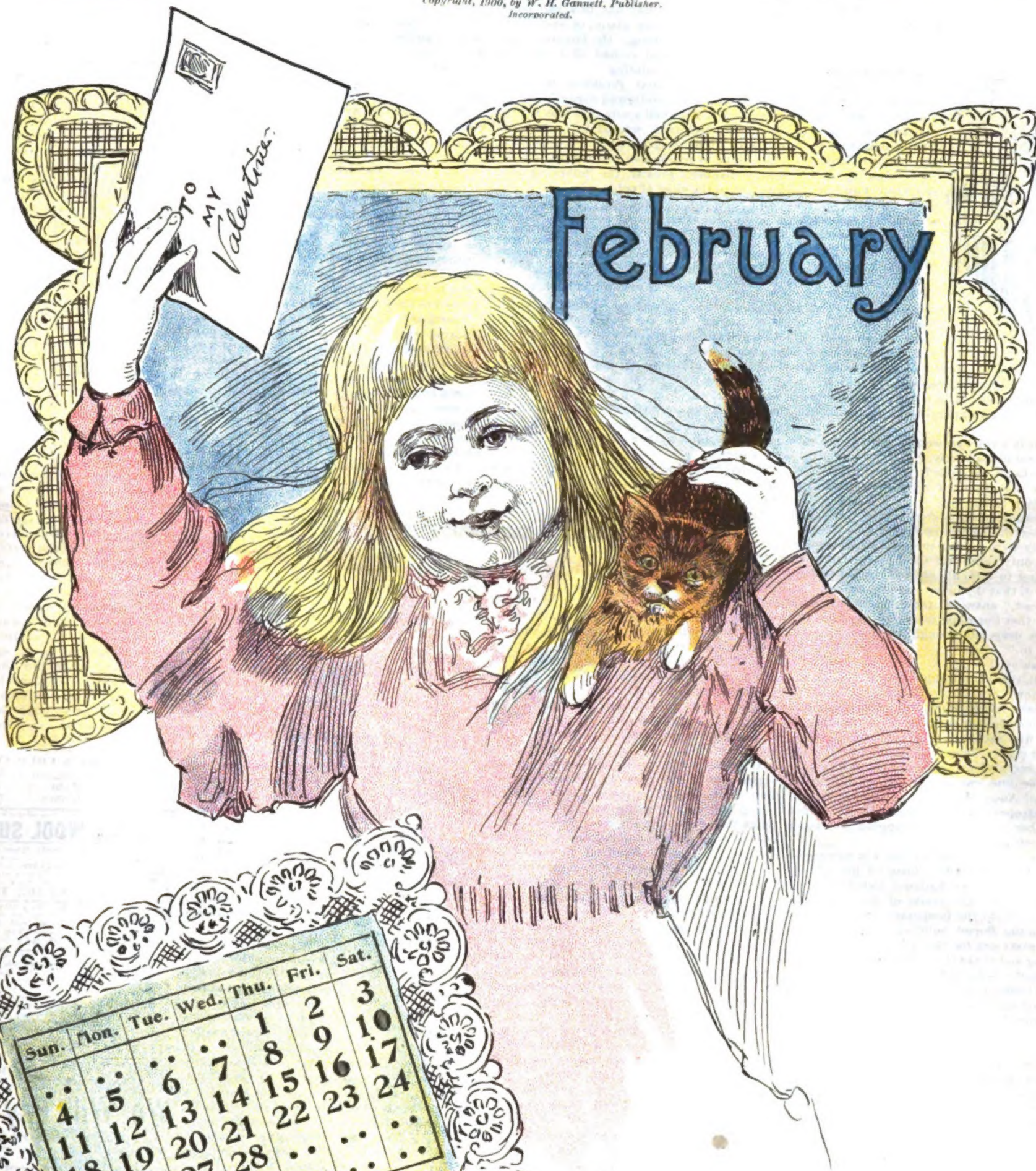
FEBRUARY 1900

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THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY.

F. F. Barnes, First Prize.
Robert B. Buckham, Second Prize.
Robert Seaver, Third Prize.
Frederick E. Burnham, Fourth Prize.
E. Bourdon Wilson, Fifth Prize.

LAUGHING GAS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. F. BARNES.

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ELL, the jig's up!"

Clarence Brownell, just out of Columbia University and fortunate enough to possess a bank president for a father, had rented a room high up in the Equitable building to carry on some of his scientific experiments. He had been interested in what the physicists call the "grating spectrometer", and that very morning the tinner had delivered a long, slender shaft of some fifteen joints of stove-pipe fastened end

to end, which he expected to use in connection with a photographic spectrum. This shaft he had mounted on a pivot resting on the window sill, and was sweeping it around like a telescope.

Suddenly a voice apparently right by his side announced despairingly, "Well, the jig's up!" and another voice replied:

"Same here, John. I'm done for. That last speculation ruined me."

Clarence Brownell stared up and down, and only after the voices resumed did he discover that they were coming through the stove pipe.

"The only thing left to do," said the voice belonging to "John", "is to skip, but what's the use of that if you have to skip broke?"

"Correct," answered the other. "I've got a scheme that I'm going to try for my part, and if you're desperate enough to come along I'll let you in."

"Speak on."

"Well, there is the object lesson crossing the street now. See?"

Clarence looked down into Broadway and saw a line of seven clerks crossing the street in single file, each carrying two large leather-covered cases. These were followed by other clerks, carrying packages of books and satchels. The line was headed by the tall, gaunt figure of Andy McDowell, an ex-detective of the metropolitan police system, and guarded on either side by two strapping watchmen armed with rifles.

The young man recognized the procession instantly as the office force of his father's bank, the American National, transferring the valuables from the vaults of the Mercantile Deposit Co., to the temporary quarters of the bank in the Boreel building across the way. Twice every day for the last month, at the beginning and at the close of banking hours, this parade of wealth had crossed the street, halting all traffic, cable-cars and pedestrians. The old bank building had been torn down, and as the Boreel building contained no burglar proof vaults, this arrangement for the care of the funds would continue until the new building was finished.

"There is the chance I mean," said the voice of "John's" fellow conspirator. "Hello! What is the meaning of this stove pipe?" Something hit Clarence in the face. The speaker had tossed the stump of a cigar down the shaft.

"I don't know," said "John". "A ventilator, I suppose. But you don't mean to make a grab for that boodle? Why, man, you would be shot or clubbed to death before you started. Don't you see those fellows sitting in the bank windows? Every one of them has a rifle!"

"Suppose we were to jerk it away from them without showing ourselves."

"Pshaw!" exclaimed the other, contemptuously. "And still," he added, as though an idea began to dawn on him, "it might be—"

"Of course it might! Imagine, for instance, that a chain could be hooked to that string of boxes and connected to the moving cable of the street cars. How long do you think those clerks would hold onto it?"

"That strap wouldn't stand the strain."

"That strap is really a steel chain wrapped in leather. Of course I will jerk it upwards and not along the street. My machinery is all ready but I need a helper and I offer you half! What do you say?"

"When can we do it? I've got to have a hundred thousand dollars by to-morrow noon."

"We can do it this afternoon. They come back at exactly ten minutes after four."

"Very well, I'm with you. I would like to see what machinery you have rigged up."

"Come on. I only expect to be able to catch up the strong boxes that are chained together. It seems a shame to let the other satchels escape. But we ought to secure half a million at any rate."

The listener heard their footsteps across an uncarpeted floor, and then the door slammed. He leaned far out of the window, and looking up in the direction that the stove pipe pointed, tried to locate the room. But a cornice interfered.

"The direction of the pipe ought to help me to find the place," he muttered, dragging it in. An exclamation of disgust escaped him. The pipe was bent nearly at right angles, and from all the indications it afforded the conspirators might have been in any one of a half dozen rooms on the next floor above, or even in the Mills building adjoining. He hurriedly donned hat and coat and rushed off to find his father in the Boreel building.

A few minutes later President Brownell, Clarence and Andy McDowell were closeted together. Mr. Brownell's sole care was for the valuables. McDowell wanted to capture the robbers. Clarence agreed to both propositions, but wanted to accomplish the capture in a scientific manner. Finally the following note was sent to the chief of police:

"I have reason to believe that an attempt will be made this afternoon to seize the funds of this bank, which as you know are carried to the vaults of the Mercantile Deposit Co., each afternoon at 4:10. Will you kindly let me have fifty men in citizens' clothes, one hour before that time?"

JAMES BROWNELL,

Pres. American National Bank.

Just after the dinner hour several large crates were carried into the bank, and Clarence Brownell and Andy McDowell, in the seclusion of a back room, unpacked them and disclosed the exact duplicates of the leather-covered strong boxes that were accustomed to make the daily pilgrimage.

"Do you know anything about laughing gas?" asked the young man as he helped Andy pass the familiar leather-covered chain through the handles.

"It has been used free time long ago to put a man to the sleep when th' teeth are pulled," replied Andy in his broad Scotch.

"Yes, that's true. It is one of the best and safest anesthetics. But do you know how it gets its name?"

"No. I canna say that."

"Sometimes if a man is very strongly excited when he takes it, instead of putting him to sleep it seems to increase the excitement. If he is moaning, it makes him shriek in fright; if he is giggling hysterically, it sets him to howling with laughter."

Andy expressed his surprise appropriately and finished the task at which he was engaged by fastening a stout fine cord to one of the strong boxes. "Noo, boy," he said. "'Tis done. I hope ta tricks will be the snarin' o' them. But in any case, we will na let them slip awa'."

At exactly ten minutes after four McDowell appeared in the doorway of the Boreel building. This was the signal for the policeman who has charge of that crossing to halt all traffic. After McDowell came the seven clerks, bearing as usual the leather covered boxes connected by the leather strap. Next came several other clerks carrying the usual extra supply of cases and satchels, and finally the two watchmen.

Everything appeared as usual. But an initiated observer would have seen that one of the extra satchels had a small perforation in the side and the cord all ready to unwind from the reel inside was fastened to the string of treasure boxes. Suddenly McDowell, whose watchful eye had been covertly searching the windows on both sides of the street, shouted, "Look out!"

A grapple hook at the end of a heavy rope swung from the sky above, straight toward the human caravan. With one accord the clerks dropped their burden, and sprang out of harm's way. There was a cry from the spectators on all sides. The hook engaged the chain, and next instant a half million in treasure was disappearing skyward before the eyes of the multitude that swarmed on Broadway, the busiest street in the world.

Then followed five minutes of the most tremendous excitement. For perhaps three seconds the string of boxes was in sight before it disappeared like a flash over the roof cornice of the Equitable building. Old McDowell drew a red handkerchief from his pocket and waved it frantically. Policemen in citizens' clothes came running from all directions, and others appeared in office windows in the various surrounding buildings, and at various elevations. The clerk who held the satchel containing the reel of cord shouted, "They've stopped."

Andy looked. The cord was no longer unrolling. He followed the string with his eye as far as he could toward the roof of the Equitable. Then with a score of men, Clarence Brownell among them, he rushed into the building for an elevator. In a twinkling they had reached the top floor and started for the

stairway to the loft. McDowell's quick eye caught the color of the twine. "There it is," he shouted. "Back! Follow it down the corridor."

Most of the men raced off, guided by the cord, but Clarence bounded on upstairs to the loft. The steps were dented and hacked by the iron boxes that had just been dragged down them. In the loft, hidden by some rough crates, he found a small but powerful electric motor bolted into position, a windlass with several hundred feet of cable wound up, and an ugly looking grapple anchor. The steps up to the roof were also hacked and gouged, and to make assurance doubly sure, the tell-tale cord led straight up and across the open space to the cornice.

He ran back down stairs to find Andy McDowell and all his assistants gathered silently around a door at the farthest end of the corridor. The guiding cord ran under this door.

From the other side came a most distracting uproar. Two voices were raised high in clamor. One wailed and wept and boo-hoo'd; the other ha-ha'd, and whooped with laughter. Clarence understood it instantly but the policemen stared at the door as though they feared the presence of the evil one. Presently an ax was brought and the door was burst in. Grovelling on the floor and shrieking in despair was John Simms, and lying back in a chair in a paroxysm of ghastly mirth was Alec DuTose—two of the most notorious brokers and stock speculators on the street. In a heap on the floor between the two men were the leather-covered boxes, badly scarred and scuffed, but still held together by the chain. One of these was wide open, and it was from this that the sweetish-scented gas was pouring.

After the windows had been opened, the police entered and carried the anesthetized men down to the street, whence they were quickly shipped to the Tombs.

Among the first callers at the prison the next morning were Andy McDowell in company with Clarence Brownell. Alec DuTose, devil-may-care as ever, greeted them from behind the bars, and when he had heard how the string of iron boxes he had so cleverly filched up from the street below had contained nothing but compressed laughing gas, he chuckled heartily over the trick and complimented the boy for his ingenuity.

"I would like to know, though," he added, "where the boodle was all night."

"Last night," answered McDowell ruefully, as he thought of the sleep lost by the president, the cashier and himself, "the American National Bank never quit at all. Eet wa' anxious to be ready to do business wi' its coostomers the first thing the mornin'."

How 'Squire Hawkins Enforced the Law.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ROBERT B. BUCKHAM.

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WITH the exception of the parson alone, 'Squire Hawkins was by far the most prominent man of the village. He was the Justice of the peace, King's Commissioner, ruling spirit of the town, jailer, town Treasurer, and elder deacon of the church. For years he had been looked upon as in a way the father and wise counsellor of the town. Nothing of any importance in the line of public affairs was ever undertaken without first consulting him, and his word was invariably accepted as law immutable.

Be it said to his credit that he endeavored to fulfill each and every one of his offices with the utmost conscientiousness, however much he may have been in error in good judgment, and strove ever to put to the best advantage for the good of the village, the responsible position which he felt to be his in the community. It was he who fined William Littlefield two shillings for laughing when a stray dog ran into the church during meeting; Jeremiah Simpson four shillings for presuming to sit on the women's side of the meeting house; and Obed Shorey five shillings for absenting himself during the sermon; that thus the dignity of the church might be maintained.

He it was also who proposed and carried through the measure that the church should discard the drum and substitute a bell instead, to summon the people to worship, arguing his case with such warmth and vehemence, increasing the dimensions advocated for it with each new burst of eloquence, and so loudly scoffing at the niggardly spirit of any who would be content with anything less, that when at length the bell was cast, and arrived, it was found to be much too large for the belfry on the meeting house. And it was he,

again, who came to the rescue of the people at this trying juncture, and proposed the expedient of hanging the bell in the great pine tree near the meeting house, thus surmounting this difficulty to the complete satisfaction of all.

The day before Christmas of the year 175—brought with it a louder call for the counsels of the 'Squire than any which had preceded it for more than a decade. Never had there been greater excitement rife in the village than on that day, for the public conscience and sense of good taste and decorum of the people had been rudely shocked and sorely disturbed. Some few meddlesome persons of the town, without regard to ancient custom, had petitioned the Selectmen that the great church bell be rung on Christmas eve, in commemoration of the advent of that solemn day.

Such a departure from old time usage had never been suggested before, and called forth no little discussion among the townspeople, until at length a day of public hearing had been appointed. The place of audience was the spacious front room of the residence of Justice Hawkins, the room where the Court of the village was wont to hold its sittings. It was crowded to its utmost capacity on that day with men, women and children; spectators eager to hear and to see what was about to be said and done; while many more stood about without, clamorous for any reports from the more fortunate ones who had succeeded in securing entrance to the building.

With an ardor and zeal which he had never before equalled in his life, 'Squire Hawkins argued the case for the opponents of the petition. "No! The bell should not be rung! What an outrage upon the customs of the fathers to as much as suggest such a thing! Never did they suffer the advent of Christmas to be celebrated or recognized in any way. Never would they have countenanced such a ridiculous proceeding; and never would he! No! Before he would permit the ringing of the bell on that evening, he would take the law into his own hands! Let anyone but dare to touch the rope, to set its tongue agoing, and he himself would punish him. Yes, without mercy, and with a terrible chastisement!" and the speaker brought his heavy cane down upon the floor with a thud which carried conviction with his hearers. "No," was the vote of Selectmen, and the petition was dismissed.

Now among the listeners in the court room was the demure and comely widow Langmaid, and as the 'Squire was himself a widower and sometimes thought of taking unto himself a second wife, what more natural than that being by no means out of sorts with the success of the day, he should have greeted her cheerily, and walked home with her through the throng of admiring onlookers; and even staid to tea with her, when so warmly urged to do so, as well as for some little time after.

In fact, it was late in the night before the Justice started for home again; very late, as well as very cold, and for these reasons he determined to try a short cut home through the woods, rather than go around by way of the road. Traveling through the forest he found to be comparatively easy, in spite of the fact that the snow was deep and that it was much

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darker under the shadow of the evergreens than out in the moonlit clearings; and the Justice was about congratulating himself that he was to reach home safely and speedily, when chancing to turn about and glance behind him, he beheld a sight which chilled him to the very marrow with abject terror. A dark, shaggy beast, with glittering eyes and fangs which glistened savagely even in the dim light of the woods, was stealthily following after him! A wolf! Doubtless more were close at hand! And with a leap the midnight traveler started for the open at the top of his speed.

No precaution was neglected by the fleeing magistrate to prevent his coming off winner in the race for life which he realized he must now run with the bloodthirsty fiends behind him. He threw aside his great coat, his cane, his periwig, even his silver mounted snuff box, that he might not be hampered by them in his flight. Headlong he plunged through the timber, crashing through underbrush and deadwood heedless of the havoc which it wrought with his fine clothing and silk stockings, his very best, donned in honor of the day's event.

But the open was gained at last, and right before the fugitive lay the meeting house. Ah, if he could but reach it he would be safe; yet as he drew near it occurred to him with overwhelming dismay that, after all, in no possible manner could he gain its interior, for its door was securely locked. But there was the pine tree, just beyond, the cleats nailed to it forming a convenient ladder to its very top! He could ascend that!

With an agility that would have aroused the envy of many a nimble schoolboy, the King's Commissioner ascended the tree, and having perched himself securely upon a stout limb, stopped at last to rest and catch his breath. For the time being, at least, he was out of danger; but a new source of anxiety loomed up before him as he sat upon his elevated perch, now and then casting an anxious look down at his fierce pursuer sitting stubbornly at the base of the tree, ever and again licking its great chops and whining mournfully, as though in rage and disappointment at this unexpected postponement of its feast.

Without coat or hat, as he was, and bathed in perspiration with the alarm and exertions of the past few moments, the shivering prisoner began to feel most severely the effects of the biting and intense cold of the winter's night. It soon became evident to him that if help did not come to his rescue speedily, he must inevitably become so benumbed with the cold as to be unable to maintain his seat longer, and drop to the ground below to become the prey of the glaring monster seated there.

What was he to do? No one would be passing at that hour of the night, for all were at home and in bed. Even if he should shout for help at the top of his lungs he would not be heard, so great was the distance to the nearest house. As he was thus sitting in a state of awful suspense and anxiety, meditating upon the terrible fate to which he seemed doomed, suddenly there swept over him, like a great flood of emotion, a realization of a possible means of escape, thrilling him to the fingertips with a great tide of renewed hope and unspeakable joy. He could ring the church bell in the tree! That, surely, would attract some one to his relief.

And so it did. For a few moments after the clear tones of the bell rang out upon the crisp, frosty air, the silence of the night remained unbroken; then many indistinguishable and indescribable sounds began to float to the ear of the eager listener, portentous of some mighty disturbance away in the distance; and a little after, a great, black throng of individuals came hurrying from all quarters, shouting to one another in excited tones, and pushing and jostling one another in their haste to gain the lead.

Again and again the Justice heard his name sounded above the din. "Squire Hawkins! Where is he? Wait for him! Wait! Wait! Let him administer the punishment." But nothing could stay the fury of the rabble. On it came like a mighty deluge, sweeping along with irresistible momentum, and surrounded the tree in a twinkling. Then followed a shower of snowballs and dead branches directed at the luckless individual in the tree, amid many bitter threats and loud cries of "Come down! Come down, you rascal!"

The besieged magistrate, unable to make himself heard above the noise, found it necessary to speedily descend in order to save himself from serious injury. But no sooner had his feet touched the ground than he was seized by a score of hands, from behind and before, and given such a shaking and kicking and cuffing as he had never before dreamed of in his life. Indeed, it would be difficult to state what might not have happened, had not some strong lunged individual cried out, "Hold! It is Squire Hawkins himself! Come to think of it, I saw his dog sitting under the tree as we came up!"

A BIG MAN WITH A BABY'S STOMACH.

A SPECTACLE WHICH IS NOT UNCOMMON IN THE AMERICAN HOME.

He lives on crackers and milk, baby's food. He has a baby's stomach. Give meat to a baby and it will probably be thrown into convulsions. If this man eats meat he suffers agony. He can only eat baby foods, "spoon victuals."

This is the story of the man with a baby's stomach.

He was once a hearty eater. He could eat anything. And he did. He ate by the clock, regardless of the necessities of nutrition. He rushed through breakfast to get to business. He hustled through lunch because of business.



He went home at night, tired out, to eat a heavy dinner, which his stomach was entirely unfit to take care of.

Then came a time when his stomach seemed unduly distended after he had eaten a meal. There were bitter eructations and belchings; a constant feeling of discomfort, and sometimes a dull pain in the stomach. Somebody told him to take some sort of tablets or drops after each meal. He tried it and it eased him. The gas didn't trouble him so much and his stomach wasn't so uncomfortable. He thought it was all right to mix meals and medicine, and did it regularly. But presently other symptoms appeared. He grew nervous, sleepless, irritable. His skin was dry and harsh. His liver didn't act. His heart troubled him, his kidneys were out of order. He had miserable headaches.

Then he began to doctor. He doctored for his liver; for his heart; for his kidneys; for his nerves.

Then the doctors gave him up, and he gave up the doctors.

That is one half of the story. Here's the other half in

THE MAN'S OWN WORDS.

"About ten years ago I began to have trouble with my stomach," writes Mr. Wm. Conolly, of 535 Walnut St., Lorain, Ohio. "It got so bad that I had to lay off quite often two and three days in a week, my stomach would bloat, and I would belch up gas, and was in awful distress at such times. I have employed and been treated by the best doctors in this city, but got no help whatever. Some said I had cancer of the stomach, others catarrh, others dyspepsia. I have bought and tried everything I saw advertised for dyspepsia and stomach trouble, but continued to get worse all the time. About twelve months ago I was in such a condition that my friends had some fear about my recovering. I called a doctor and he found me in a very bad shape. Hands and limbs were cold and dripping with cold sweat. He told me that I had a very bad case of chronic indigestion. I was under his treatment until this spring (1898), but did not improve any. By some way or other I happened to get hold of a vial of your Pellets, and I thought they helped me. It was then I wrote to you for advice. You told me that by my symptoms you thought I had liver complaint and advised the use of your Golden Medical Discovery and Pleasant Pellets in connection. These medicines I have taken as directed and am very happy to state that I commenced to get better from the start, and have not lost a day this summer on account of my stomach. I feel tip-top, and better than I have for ten years."

If that history of one man's suffering and cure teaches anything, it teaches this:

There is no need to suffer with "weak" stomach and the score of ills it causes.

Because:

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition. It has cured thousands of men and women whose cases were like that of Mr. Conolly. It has cured "weak" heart, "weak" liver, "weak" lungs, "weak" nerves, and every other kind of weakness which can have its origin in a "weak" stomach. It cures through the stomach the ailments which have their origin in a diseased condition of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition.

A WORD FROM A WOMAN.

"I had suffered from indigestion, and only those who have suffered from it know what it

really is," writes Mrs. M. J. Fagan, of 1613 East Genesee St., Syracuse, N. Y. "I had had severe attacks of headache and dizziness, with cold hands and feet; everything I ate distressed me, bowels were constipated and I was growing thin and nervous. I cannot express the bad feelings I had when I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I took nine bottles of the 'Discovery' and have taken several bottles of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. I commenced feeling better with the first bottle and kept on improving. Now I am so greatly improved in health my friends often speak of it. I most heartily recommend these medicines to all suffering as I was. I received more benefit from them than any other medicine used."

When the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition are diseased the natural result is to cut down the nutrition of the body. Just as much food may be eaten, but it's not the food eaten but the food digested and assimilated which keeps the body strong. When the stomach is "weak" it's like any weak thing; it can only do weak work. The full strength of the stomach equals the full strength of the whole body. Cut down the strength of the stomach, weaken the powers of digestion and assimilation, and by as much as the stomach is weakened by so much the whole body is weakened. But as this whole body is made of parts, so this "weakness" is distributed over these several parts, heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, nerves, blood, etc.

When "Golden Medical Discovery" cures the "weak" stomach it necessarily cures the weakness of other organs which have been dragged down by the weakness or disease of the stomach and the associated organs of digestion and nutrition. That is why diseases of lungs, liver, heart, kidneys, nerves and blood are cured by "Golden Medical Discovery."

The remarkable cures effected by the use of "Golden Medical Discovery" warrant the hope of a cure in any similar case. No matter how many doctors have failed, or how many medicines have been taken in vain, there is hope for everybody who begins the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It always helps. It almost always cures.

There is no alcohol contained in the "Discovery" and it is altogether free from opium, cocaine and all other narcotics.

Sick people are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter, free. All correspondence strictly private and sacredly confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

The dealer who tries to sell any substitute for "Golden Medical Discovery" is the customer's enemy. He is willing to risk the health of his customer for the sake of larger profit paid by less reliable remedies. For health's sake insist on having Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

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Not much, certainly. Its purchasing power is not large in the open market. But 21 cents converted into one-cent stamps will pay the expense of mailing Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, the foremost medical work of the age. There's no other charge. The book is given away. Last year it cost \$25,000.00 to give this book to all who paid mailing expenses. There's a little difference between the 21 cents for mailing and \$25,000.00 for making the book! This great work contains 1008 large pages and deals with the great topics which are of vital interest to every man and woman. Send 21 one-cent stamps (expense of mailing only) for the book in paper covers, or 31 stamps for the volume in durable cloth binding. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

that thereafter, when any one wished the bell rung, on Christmas eve, or New Year's eve, or at any time whatever, it was done without as much as consulting the Selectmen; and curiously enough, without a single word of remonstrance from Squire Justice Hawkins, the King's Commissioner.

THE HERMIT'S RUSE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ROBERT SEEVER.

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BILLY and I had decided to take our vacation trip on our wheels. We had no definite destination in view and decided to go where we chose, spend the night wherever we happened to be, in a farm-house, perhaps, or in a barn or hayfield, if no better accommodations offered. The third day out we had ridden until late in the evening without coming to any dwelling when we came in sight of a comfortable-looking farm-house.

It was a large white house, evidently built in Colonial days, and

though then, no doubt, a fine mansion was now rather dilapidated and neglected in appearance. Billy rested his wheel against the fence and strode up the weed-grown walk, to where a light shone in the kitchen window.

His knock was answered by a little, white-haired old gentleman, who seemed extremely glad to see us. He welcomed us both as if we had been old friends, and invited us into the kitchen where he presented us to his wife, a dear old motherly lady, who won my heart at once by setting out some fresh doughnuts and new milk.

We became very sociable. Mr. Wilson, we learned, had been a doctor in a near-by town, but failing health and eyesight had decided him to go back to the occupation of his boyhood years, and so he had bought this place a few weeks before, where he and his wife expected to end their days in peace.

We had asked merely for refreshment when we knocked at the door of the farm-house. When now, after regaling ourselves, we broached the subject of spending the night, Doctor Wilson looked uneasily at his wife—talked with her a minute in a low tone and then said:

"Excuse me, friends, if I have hesitated about answering you. You are very welcome here, if you can stand it. The fact is—now don't think me foolish—that this house is haunted."

"Oh!" we both laughed.

"Great scheme," said Billy. "One more adventure added to our list. By Jove, Doctor, that beats the supper. I've never slept in a haunted house but I'll be glad enough to try it."

"Don't be too sure, my boy," said the doctor. "Wait till morning before you talk that way. When I bought this place it had been vacant for two years and it has had a dozen owners in the last five years. Nobody ever went near it. I felt as you do, then, but I'll confess, after what I've heard for the past two weeks I may have to move out after all. It's absurd, I know, but that's the way the matter stands."

Assuring our host that all the ghosts in the country couldn't rouse us, Dr. Wilson showed us to a neat little room and left us. We were not long in getting to bed and, tired out, fell asleep at once. The next thing I knew I felt Billy grip my arm. "Listen," he said; and wide awake we listened to the weirdest collection of moans and shrieks I have ever heard. They seemed to come from first one side of the room and then the other. Sleep was out of the question and we lay awake and shivered for the rest of the night. The next morning we found that the doctor and his wife had also been disturbed; in fact, Mrs. Wilson was on the verge of nervous prostration.

After breakfast we bade our hosts adieu and went our way. The night's adventure had made a strong impression on me and I decided to go back to the Wilsons and try to solve the mystery. Billy had had enough, and declined to go back.

"I believe old Wilson is a fraud," he said, "and put up a game on us. You can go ghost-chasing if you want, but I won't."

So we parted company and I rode back to the Wilsons, arriving the following morning. I found that there had been no disturbance the night before, which rather strengthened my impression that Billy was right and that the doctor was making a fool of us. Besides, a ghost is never as real by daylight, and by noon I had almost decided to ride off and forget the matter. That morning, with the doctor, I had examined the old house as thoroughly as possible, and had explored every nook for some solution of the mystery, but without result; nothing had been discovered. In the afternoon the doctor and I had visited the attic, which we found littered with all the odds and ends that accumulate in old houses. Not worth moving, they had probably been untouched since the house was built. I was delighted—I had forgotten my ghost in the zest of looking over these old things, which the doctor gave me the privilege of examining while he went to attend to his work about the place. An old hair-cloth trunk attracted my attention. It opened easily and I found it stuffed full of old papers and letters. These I examined with idle curiosity, finding besides family letters, old mortgages and deeds, a lieutenant's commission in the Colonial army, a copy of a royal proclamation, and then, way at the bottom, an old plan, yellow with age, which I studied, idly at first, then with eager interest, for here I discovered a possible clue to the ghost mystery.

It was a plan of the house and grounds; that I soon discovered. There was writing, too, and after long study I deciphered it and found myself in possession of a clue indeed. The plan was a diagram of the house, sure enough, and showed the secret passages and hiding places that had been built for the purpose of hiding refugees in Revolutionary times. The entrance was from the old well in the back yard. Rushing down stairs I found the doctor and his wife and explained my find. Together we went to the well, which had not been used for years. I descended, and after going about ten feet discovered a dark passage or tunnel, at right angles to the side of the well and leading toward the house, just large enough to allow a man to crawl through. This I followed until I came to a very narrow and steep flight of stairs,

scarcely a foot wide. These led up to the wall of the house, I decided; then a narrow passage through which I slipped sideways, and another flight of steps like the first. The dust and heat were suffocating, but a little light filtered in under the eaves.

Without waiting further I retraced my steps to the well, where I found the doctor and his wife anxiously waiting. I told them of my discovery, and we decided upon a plan of action. Ghosts no longer bothered us—our idea now was to catch the flesh and blood ghost that had made all the trouble. We soon decided on a plan—simply to hide and catch the intruder when he entered the passage. That night I hid in the barn and was rewarded about midnight by seeing a man creep up through the field opposite the house. He entered the well, and then in a few minutes I heard the groans and cries that had so disturbed my peace of mind two nights before. After a time the noises ceased and I ran out and crouched beside the well. The doctor, according to agreement, slipped out of the house and joined me. In a few minutes we could hear our man creeping through the tunnel; then as soon as he appeared at the brink of the well I sprang upon him, and soon we had him tied securely, though he struggled desperately.

We carried him into the kitchen, where we discovered our prisoner was a very distinguished looking, if somewhat dilapidated old gentleman, a veritable blue-blood dressed in the style of seventy years ago, and though rambling and incoherent in his speech, evidently a man of education and refinement. At first he declined to tell his story, but at length on our assuring him that we would let him go if he would tell us his object in playing ghost, he explained his motive.

Long ago, he said, his family had owned the property, but had been cheated out of their possession and title by another branch, through a forged will. His father had left him, among other papers, a plan of the secret passages with which the house was honeycombed, and the idea had seized him to play ghost and frighten away the usurping occupants of his ancestral home. His plan had succeeded—the property had passed from one hand to another, losing value with every transfer, and each time he had succeeded in scaring away the owners who would then sell—for any price, to get the property off their hands. While the house was unoccupied he had lived in the attic, scaring away the passers-by with ghostly noises. While the house was occupied, the "ghost" had lived in a little hut on the side of the mountain, an eccentric hermit, who aroused the curiosity and fear of the whole neighborhood.

When his story was ended the old hermit broke down and wept bitterly, and so, too, to tell the truth, did Mrs. Wilson.

The Wilsons still have their ghost, but he occupies the room Billy and I had, and never groans in the night unless, perchance, he indulges too freely in the toothsome, but sometimes indigestible dainties with which the doctor's wife heaps his plate.

THE SHERIFF'S MISTAKE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FREDERICK E. BURNHAM.

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HORSE thieves and desperadoes had made matters lively at Preston for several months. More acts of lawlessness had been perpetrated within six months than during any two years previous. As a natural result every stranger was eyed with more or less suspicion until he gave satisfactory evidence that he was an honest man.

One evening late in the fall of '89, word was passed from mouth to mouth to the effect that a disreputable

looking negro was somewhere within the limits of the township, and in a very short space of time a searching party had been organized and a hundred or more were shortly scouring the country about, searching for the negro whose only crime(?) so far as they knew, was the wearing of ragged garments.

A little after ten o'clock the negro was located, asleep in a deserted barn.

"Wha' yir doin', sah?" demanded the negro, aroused from his slumbers.

"Wha' the matter?"

"We'll show you what's the matter, you black devil," said the man who had seized him.

"Who have you robbed, hey?"

"Robbed?" queried the darky, "I ain't robbed nobody."

"What have you got in there?"

The negro had made a movement with his hand toward the lining of his coat.

"Nothin', sah! Nothin', sho's yo born!"

One of the men stripped the coat off with a vicious jerk—and received the negro's great fist fairly between the eyes. For an instant the darky jabbered wildly, the while clinging tightly to his coat.

"Yo leave dat coat 'lone, sah. I robbed nobody. Leave dat coat 'lone—'or, Sah-h-h!"

The man's cries were cut short.

Out upon the barnfloor fell a worn money-pouch. It had dropped from the lining of the negro's coat.

"Not robbed anybody, eh?" said one of the men. "It looks like it. Look at the bills, boys. He's the man we're looking for. Get the noose ready and we'll make short work of him. Parker is two miles from here and if he was only a hundred rods he'd leave us alone."

At the name of Parker the negro brightened up.

"That's the man, sah, I was lookin' fo.' I was carryin' de money to him. I come from

'Frisco foot, one-two t'ousand mile to guv' it into his hands."

The crowd roared with merriment.

"Come to see the sheriff with the money you'd stole. You're a cool one and no mistake!"

Unknown to the mob, one of the men slipped out of the barn and a moment later was riding at breakneck speed toward the sheriff's house.

"Stave it off as long as you can, John," he had whispered to one of the men, "I'll be back soon. I believe he's telling the truth."

The sheriff angrily asked what was wanted at that hour of the night.

"There's a mob down in the Hollow and they are about to string up a negro. He says that he has got something to give you—a money-pouch that dropped out of his coat. Ride for all you're worth, Parker, and I'll be on hand with one or two others to help you."

The sheriff banged the window, grumbling the while. Hurry? Hardly! He took little stock in the man's words, but would go, nevertheless, merely to ease the minds of certain individuals in the town who were opposed to lynchings. As far as he was concerned, the mob had his hearty consent.

Meanwhile, matters were progressing at the barn in the Hollow, though somewhat tardily, owing to the entreaties of the man whom the messenger had asked to stave off the execution.

"Hear his side of the story," said he, turning to the negro, "there is time enough. What have you got to say for yourself, nigger? How did you come by the money? Speak out."

"It was this way, sah," replied the negro, loosening the cord about his throat, "I waked 'long side a man in de mines whose name was Parker; some called him Jim, others, Billy; I dunno which it was. Six months ago he tuk sick an' died, and afore he guv up he handed me dis yer bag of money, sayin' as how it was to go to a man here in dis state by de name of Parker; might have been his father or budder, I dunno 'bout dat; he tole me, too, but I's forgot, and I's been trampin' round tryin' to find a 'Parker' as knowed a Jim or a Bill Parker."

"A good story, nigger," said one of the men, "but it don't go down with us. Say your prayers and be quick about it, for your neck is going to be stretched."

"I's tellin' de truth, sho as I's born, sah," said the negro, his black skin taking on a grayish tinge. "I's tellin' de truth, sah, sho—sho—"

There was an ominous silence, and then the clatter of hoofs in the street.

The negro slipped his hand into his pocket and produced a ring.

"Marse Parker'd know this if—"

The words were cut short. Some one had kicked the box from under the negro's feet and the noose tightened. An instant later the body swung limply from the rafter.

Even as it was done the mob scattered and when the sheriff with two others pushed open the door, there was no sign of the rabble, save the apparently lifeless body of the negro.

The sheriff saw an object on the floor that glittered in the rays of the lantern, and he stooped to pick it up.

It was a plain gold ring. On the inside was engraved the letters, "J. W. P.—from Cynthia."

The sheriff staggered back, his eyes starting from their sockets. With a hoarse cry he called upon his companions to cut down the body. As the body was laid on the floor the negro's eyes rolled and the thick lips moved convulsively.

Somehow in that moment of consciousness the negro learned that before him was the man whom he had sought. That he did, is one of the unaccountable facts which we are obliged to face sometimes in our lives. In the hour of death a keener perception is often accorded mortals.

"Marse Parker," said the negro feebly, "Marse Parker, Jim tole me to bring yo a bag o' money for to square up 'bout a hoss he done let get killed. I's trabbled on foot from 'Frisco an' was jist goin' to guv it to yo, but some one has tuk it from me."

The negro's mind wandered for a moment and his hand sought his pocket.

"I had—a ring what his sister done guv him once, but somehow I done lost dat too, Marse Parker. I guess p'raps—p'raps I—dropped—dropped—"

The negro gasped and all was over.

The morning sun was streaming into the deserted barn in the Hollow. Sheriff Parker was kneeling by the side of the negro, his hands clasping the negro's great palms. He had asked again and again for more tidings of the boy who had left home ten years previous—he had asked, but the negro's lips were mute.

The Hero of Aqua Fria Camp.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY E. BOURDON WILSON.

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IHAVE to laugh whenever I think of Billy as he looked one Sunday morning, his face was so human—comically human—in appearance. He was seated dog-fashion on the ground beside a group of ten men, wearing an old felt hat that hid his horns and made his forehead seem broad

and high; his "whiskers" had been carefully combed to make him look like a gray-bearded man; and he held the stem of a clay pipe in his mouth, though, to his credit, he was not smoking. His large eyes were bright with intelligence, and as solemn as a judge's; and but for his nose being a little long, he would have been quite as human in appearance as some men I have known.

What was Billy? A goat—a big Mexican goat, the leader of the mule-herd, and the pet and hero of every man in camp.

I was a contractor when I owned him, back in 1882, and I was engaged in grading a railroad in Northern Mexico, employing about fifty men and a hundred mules. The part of Mexico

we were in, was, and is yet as for that matter, a desolate region of bare, rocky mountains, and treeless plains, the want of rain making it a desert. There is, however, a short season in the fall when rain falls almost continuously, and then the short prairies quickly clothe themselves with a growth of grass; this reaches a height of about six inches before the moisture is exhausted, then dries, curling into feed every bit as nutritious for stock as the best timothy hay. It was my custom to send the mules at night, in the charge of a herder, to graze on this grass; in some respects mules are silly creatures, however; they readily stampede, a flash of lightning or clap of thunder, or the howling of a coyote often being sufficient to send them galloping madly away; while the cry of a mountain lion, or the sight of a band of antelopes is sure to give them a fright from which they do not recover until exhausted with running. So, to prevent such stampedes, I bought Billy and installed him as leader of my herd.

How can a goat prevent stampedes? Put one with a herd of mules and he will at once fraternize with them, they never attempting to harm him as they would a calf or other small animal; and they soon come to regard him as their leader, one in whose wisdom they trust implicitly. Even though badly scared themselves, they will not run away and leave him; and as goats are not easily frightened, and cannot run far if frightened, the value of such a leader in an open country can easily be estimated.

When I moved into the country to go to work, I established my camp near a spring called Aqua Fria (Cold Water); this spring gushed out from beneath a spur of a range of wild, rugged mountains that stretched away northward farther than the eye could reach. A level prairie lay in every other direction, affording convenient pasturage. We had been at work less than a month when the herder reported one morning that one of the mules was missing; and it seemed that he had strayed away from the herd during the night, but we thought it strange that he should leave Billy. Knowing that domestic animals seldom wander far from man in a desert country, expecting the missing mule soon to return to camp of his own accord, I made no effort to find him. The night following another one disappeared, but still I was not alarmed; nevertheless, as every mule was needed to work, I took the precaution of sending two men with the herd the next night. In spite of this it was found the next morning that still another mule was gone.

Even yet I felt no fear as to the ultimate recovery of the missing mules, but, as they were needed every day, I sent out mounted men to hunt for them; they found no trace of them, however, and aroused at last, I ordered that the remaining animals, with the exception of Billy and El Sabio (The Wise One), a shaggy little donkey who was kept hobbled to prevent his wandering, be kept haltered to the feed-rope at night. This ended the loss of the mules, but a few mornings later some of the men reported that their tents had been robbed during the night.

In such a country as we were in, where the necessities of life command exorbitant prices, or are unobtainable, the loss of such articles as were stolen, blankets and clothing, is a serious one; and the men would have executed summary justice upon the thief had he fallen into their hands. There was nothing to lead to the identification of the guilty one, however, and the men went to their work casting dark looks at one another, each half suspecting his neighbor.

The following morning one of the men failed to report for work; and going to his tent to see if he were sick, I was horrified to find him lying there, dead, a great knife wound in his side. Instantly the camp became the scene of great excitement; the men refused to go to work, and, buckling on their revolvers, gathered in groups to discuss the one theme of conversation. That night they took turns at guarding the camp, and they saw nothing moving except El Sabio hobbling about, nevertheless another man was murdered before morning.

Who was the assassin? and what was his motive? were questions asked on every hand. Quickly the men wrought themselves into a frenzy of excitement and fear; and recalling the silly story of a Mexican, which was to the effect that the spring was haunted by a demon of horrible appearance, who killed and robbed all who came in his way, and without fear of detection, he having the power to make himself invisible, the superstitious ones at once ascribed the constantly recurring crimes to supernatural agencies. They would have deserted me in a body had I not called them about me, and, ridiculing their fears, plead with them to remain another twenty-four hours, proposing a plan by which I hoped to catch the murderer.

"Let every man go to his tent to-night as though nothing had happened," I said, "and placing himself so that he can see every part of the tent, pretend to sleep, but keep his eyes open and his finger on the trigger of his revolver and fire without hesitation at anything he may see moving."

With some murmuring on the part of the more fearful ones they finally consented to remain; and, as I hoped the next night passed without incident, as did the next and the next. A week went by and the men becoming reassured, had returned to work, when about two o'clock one morning, the camp was aroused by a scream that was followed closely by a succession of shots. Springing to my feet and hurrying in the direction whence came the sounds, I met a man who cried out to me that he had been attacked and wounded by the mysterious assassin. Taking him to my tent and making a light, I found the blood streaming from a gash in his side; but, fortunately for him, the wound was a slight one and the flow of blood was quickly stanching.

He had heard a faint sound in his tent, he said, but being very drowsy did not open his eyes until something touched him, and then he turned to grab his revolver. This movement saved his life, for at that moment he felt a glancing blow and the sting of the knife in his side. He screamed and began firing and a dark figure darted out of the tent. As soon as he could get to his feet he also ran out, but saw no moving thing except El Sabio, who was

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hobbling by not far away.

There was no more sleep for any one in camp that night and I fully expected every man to leave with the coming of day. Some of them did propose to go but to my surprise, the wounded man insisted that all remain so that he could discover who had wounded him, and avenge the deed. Two nights now passed peacefully, every man watching alertly. On the third night I lay in my tent, looking out through a small opening in the rear, when, about midnight, I saw El Sabio hobbling toward me; there was no moon but the stars afforded sufficient light for me to see clearly. As I carelessly observed the donkey, Billy came trotting up to him to rub noses, but stopped just before their noses touched and began backing away; then he paused, and lowering his head charged down on El Sabio at full speed.

The donkey saw him coming and started to wheel, but was too slow and Billy's head struck him in the side, knocking him over; and as often as he would try to regain his feet Billy would rear up and knock him down again. The two had always been on the best of terms and I was at a loss to understand Billy's behavior, but not for long; as I watched, a tawny human hand, gripping a long-bladed knife, stole out from somewhere about the donkey and struck at Billy. Instantly I leaped to my feet and rushing out of my tent, opened fire with my revolver upon the donkey. The effect was instantaneous and startling: with a savage yell the donkey's skin burst and was thrown aside, revealing a hideously painted Apache Indian, who sprang erect and started running. He did not take a dozen steps before a shot from my revolver brought him down, and some of the men running up overpowered him and tied him hand and foot.

Even had I wished to do so I could not have restrained the men. They hurried to where a wagon stood and raising the tongue erect, propping it securely, passed a rope through the ring at its end and strung the Indian up. His death was but just punishment for his crimes. Disguised in a donkey's skin (not El Sabio's, as we quickly learned), he had been wandering at will about the camp, and watching his opportunity would steal into a tent to kill and rob. The next day we found a cave in the mountains, wherein were stored all of the stolen things and not far from that we found the missing mules.

And that is how Billy came to be the hero of Aqua Fria Camp.

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Some Stories About Mr. Moody.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX B. THRASHER.



HOSE who knew the late D. L. Moody only as a preacher, and from his printed sermons, can never fully realize the wonderful power of the man. The choicest thoughts of his heart, his most striking utterances, came spontaneously to his lips and were dashed out with prodigal lavishness in the course of his evangelical work, to have no printed record unless it might happen to be in some newspaper report of the services. During the series of meetings which Mr. Moody conducted in Tremont Temple in Boston, early in 1897, the last great series of services which he ever conducted in New England, I reported him for one of the Boston daily papers, twice a day for two months. I have been looking over my note books of that time and in them find set down many of the things which impressed me most deeply at the time.

Mr. Moody was one of the best story tellers I ever knew. He had great dramatic ability, in this way, and used it repeatedly to illustrate his arguments. One of the best stories I heard him tell was about "Lady Pendulum."

This was a woman who came to Mr. Moody's services in one of the cities of England. She was a person of wealth and importance, evidently, but lame, as she was brought into the meetings in a chair by her footman and placed in the aisle directly in front of the pulpit.

"As I watched her through the service," said Mr. Moody, "I could see an expression of disgust come over her face, and when the service was over I heard her say to her footman impatiently, 'Take me out of here.'"

"I said to myself that I would not see her back again, but the next day she was there, and the next, for a week, and finally she had her chair brought into the after-meeting which followed the regular service. When I saw her there I went to speak to her. She said: 'Mr. Moody, you've got something which I have not.'"

"I said: 'If you haven't got the love of the Lord Jesus Christ in your heart, I have.'"

"She said: 'You've got rest.'"

"Well, it seemed that she wanted to be a Christian, but she said that it was no use; it wouldn't last after I had gone back to America. I talked with her every day for a week, I guess, and it didn't do any good. Finally, one day when I was speaking, and she sat there in her chair in the aisle in front of me, I happened to think of the old story of the pendulum, and used it as an illustration, looking down to her as I spoke. You know the story—how the pendulum of a clock was so discouraged at the number of times it had got to tick in a year, and how it finally was reconciled by remembering that it had to tick only one at a time.

"She did not stay to the after-meeting that day, but some days later I got a letter from her telling me she was so glad that I had used that illustration, because it had made it all plain to her. She was going to trust God to give her grace enough to get along with from day to day, and not worry about the rest.

"I have bought a clock which shows the pendulum, to remind me of this," she said, "and I have talked so much about it that some one has called me 'Lady Pendulum.'"

"She signed her name to the letter 'Lady Pendulum', and that was the only name I knew her by for a long time. When I was ready to sail for home a box was brought me with a note from her. In the box was a beautiful clock, made so as to show the pendulum, and I have always kept this in my home to remind me of her.

"When I went back to England she was at church to greet me. She was a very wealthy woman, and able to do a great deal of good. I learned while I was there that time that she was keeping her grace alive by supporting several missionaries, and by doing many such things which her wealth made possible."

From a report of a service which Mr. Moody



THE LATE DWIGHT L. MOODY.

conducted with "Sowing and Reaping" for a subject, I quote these striking words:

"A man reaps what he sows. If he plants onions he doesn't gather wheat. If a man tells his son to go to the door and tell an unwelcome caller that his father is not at home he may expect that boy to lie to him inside of six months. A woman said to me: 'It is so strange we cannot get better servants.' I said: 'Madam, if you tell your maid to lie, and say you are not at home, you must expect her to lie to you.' 'Oh,' said she, 'that's only a society lie.' 'I tell you a society lie is just as bad as any other kind.'"

"A merchant in Chicago said to me: 'It is strange we cannot get honest clerks.' I said to him: 'If merchants tell their clerks to say a thing is all wool when they know it is half cotton, they must expect those clerks will steal.'"

"A man reaps what he sows."

Although Mr. Moody's disapproval of the Sunday papers was often vigorously expressed, he thoroughly appreciated the value of the help of the press in general in carrying to hundreds of thousands his words, when otherwise they could have been heard only by hundreds. There were few services in which he failed to speak of this, or to thank God, in his prayer, for the help of the reporters and the papers. His relations with the reporters were always very happy, and he insisted that we be given every facility to do our work. A long table skirted the whole of the platform in Tremont Temple for us; there were always chairs enough for all who might by any chance happen to come in. There might be a hundred persons standing in the auditorium, for want of seats, but our chairs were always reserved for us, a wise provision, since sometimes a man could not come in until after the service had begun. On account of this I had a chance one day to see an interesting incident illustrating Mr. Moody's power over persons who did not expect to be impressed by him.

I had been talking one day about these meetings and Mr. Moody, with Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, the famous writer and unquestionably one of the most able, as she also is one of the most truly refined women in America. Mrs. Moulton had never seen Mr. Moody. She said she had often thought that she would like to see and hear him, because she had a curiosity to see what there was about a man, so uneducated as she had heard Mr. Moody to be, which people found so impressive.

I proposed that she come to one of the meetings, and she said that she would have done so except that by that time there were such crowds at Tremont Temple every day that one had to go an inconveniently long time before hand in order to get a seat. I told her to come when she could, and come directly up to the press table, to where I sat, and that I would see that she had a seat there. I thought nothing more of it, until, several days later, some one touched me on the shoulder, as I was writing away for dear life, and when I looked around there stood Mrs. Moulton. Fortunately we had plenty of chairs, and she had a good seat, right in front of the speaker. There must have been three thousand persons in the audience, that day, and Mr. Moody surpassed himself. I kept rushing away on the sheets of paper in front of me, for I was making "running copy," until in a moment's leap up I happened to look around to Mrs. Moulton. Her eyes, filled with tears, were fixed on Mr. Moody's face with a look which showed that she was oblivious to everything except his words. When the service was over, and she thanked me, she said: "I understand his power, now."

Criticism never seemed to worry Mr. Moody. If anything, it stimulated him to new attacks. I remember once he read aloud a part of a letter which had been sent him, finding fault with something he had said. "If I talk about the sins of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," he said, "it's all right; and you say, 'They were a bad lot'; but when I get at you for your sins, you don't like it. You say: 'It's too personal.'"

"I don't care if people do take issue with what I say. When they get mad it shows that they are waking up. I would rather a man would get mad and go out of the room three times over than to sit there and reply to everything I say: 'That's so, Mr. Moody.' Such a man as that is the most discouraging of any."

"I used to be afraid I would hurt somebody's feelings. I've got over that. I'm afraid now that I won't; for if folks are not living right I want to make them know it."

His criticisms were not all for the laity, by any means. The ministers always got a good share. I find one place, where talking to the ministers who were present he said:

"If a man goes into the pulpit every Sunday and uses it only professionally, and puts no love in it, he might as well buy a tin horn and blow it. What the people want is to be fed, and then they will go to work. If you want a good flock of sheep you feed them well. 'Feed my sheep.' Feed them well, and don't put the fodder too high up in the racks. Sheep haven't got necks like camels. If you want a good church feed it on the word of God."

Coming back to the congregations again, he went on: "We don't want gush and sentiment. When I see a man shouting 'Glory Hallelujah!' and know that he don't treat his wife right, it makes a cold shiver run down my back. If a man has lost his influence in his home he has lost it in the church and in the world. We are to be doers of the Word. Stop and think. Are there any of you who have anything to do in the way of forgiving? Keep thinking. You look rather strange, some of you. It's no use for us to go on unless you are ready to begin at the bottom. Are you ready to forgive?"

The day's talk ended with that sentence. Mr. Moody waited a full minute;—the time, in the deathly still, densely crowded house seemed much longer. I quote one sentence from the prayer with which he closed the service: "As the report of this meeting goes out through the press, may many see and read, and be influenced to go and become reconciled to those from whom they are estranged."

Asthma Can Be Cured.

Statement of a Noted Physician.

The astonishing statement that Asthma can be cured, coming from so well known an authority as Dr. Rudolph Schiffmann, will be of interest to sufferers from Asthma, Phthisis and Hay Fever. The Doctor's offer, coming as it does from a recognized authority, who during a practice of over 30 years has treated and cured more cases of Asthma and its kindred than any living doctor, is certainly a generous one and an innovation in this age of countless fraudulent nostrums. Believing that the honest way to sell a remedy is to let those who would buy convince themselves of its merits before purchasing, Dr. Schiffmann has authorized this paper to say that he will send a free trial package of his remedy, "Schiffmann's Asthma Cure," to any sufferer who sends his name on a postal card before April 1st. This remedy has cured thousands of cases that were considered incurable. Being used by inhalation it reaches the seat of the disease direct, stops the spasm instantly and insures sweet and refreshing sleep. A free trial package will convince the most skeptical. Those desiring to try a free sample should address Dr. R. Schiffmann, 352 Jackson St., St. Paul, Minn.

THE PUEBLO SNAKE DANCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



SNAKE dance of the Pueblo Indians or Moquis, takes place during the month of August. It is the last of a series of religious observances which continue for nine days, and its object is to bring rain.

In the Moquis tribe there are two secret societies, known as the Snakes and Antelopes. Each of these societies is presided over by priests, and it is considered a great honor by the Moquis to belong to either order.

Before the ceremony numbers of snakes are captured and after being washed and covered with sacred meal by the priests, are kept in a safe enclosure.

At the beginning of the ceremony the Antelopes appear, headed by their priests. They march to the enclosure containing the snakes and then circle around it, stamping vigorously to notify the powers that the ceremony is about to begin. Then the Snake fraternity appear and go through the same performance.

Both societies now join in lines facing each other. Then one member of the Snakes and one of the Antelopes run to the enclosure where the priest in authority hands them a snake. This the Snake brother places in his mouth, holding the center of the reptile's body between his teeth, and marches around, the Antelope man meanwhile accompanying him and stroking the snake with a bunch of feathers tied to the end of a wand.

The other members of the societies follow suit and soon each man of the Snake fraternity has one or two reptiles in his mouth and several more in his hands. Now and then one of the snakes, which are principally rattlesnakes, is dropped purposely, and an Indian whose special duty this is, re-captures it. Though the snakes are handled carelessly the performers are rarely bitten, but even in this case, the Moquis possess a powerful antidote for snake bite, so death never results.

While all this is going on the rest of the tribe, both men and women, chant a weird melody. At last all the reptiles are dropped inside a sacred circle marked by the priests. Then the members of the brotherhoods rush in, seize all the reptiles they can carry and run over the plains at full speed, finally letting them go, to carry to the gods the prayers for rain.

The societies on their return bathe in a green fluid, the composition of which is best known to themselves, and then take a powerful emetic to purge themselves from the effects of snake handling. After this has been thoroughly effected they sit down to a kind of communion service of bread given them by the women, and the ceremony is over.

Though all this seems ridiculous as well as somewhat disgusting to us, it must be remembered that to the Indians this rite has the deepest religious significance, and is, on that account, entitled to respect. At the present time the Pueblos have had the advantages of Christian teaching and have abandoned some of their most cruel and religious rites, but they cling to some of their old traditions and among them the Snake dance.

THE latest idea for a dance is a golf cotillion. Golf itself is not to be introduced into the dance, but the girls have planned to use as favors all the necessities for playing the game—golf sticks and golf balls, golf waistcoats, and golfstick-holders will figure largely, and the dancers will go home laden with a new supply of outfits for their favorite out-of-door game.

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FEEL YOUR PULSE



Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased, and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are only one symptom, and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

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Mrs. Joseph M. Evans, of Cartersville, Mo., says: "Two years ago I had dropsy of the left limb so severely that my physicians said I could not recover. I had been sick about a year, and most of the time was bedfast. The treatment of the physicians did me no permanent good. I steadily grew worse."

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"I took about six months steady treatment. The result is that I do not now feel a trace of my former ailments."

Mrs. Lue Evans.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public, this 12th day of October, 1898.

WM. B. WOLCOTT, Notary Public.

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The "Amazon of Journalism" is a term that has been applied to Mrs. Frank Leslie. "Napoleonic" is another expression of the fact that a woman has made one of the greatest successes in the history of publishing. The story of Mrs. Leslie's life has all the elements of romance and of plain, practical business life. Mrs. Leslie herself has the dual nature of keen, clear headed executive ability that has enabled her to build up and maintain a great publishing business, and of the charming woman who attracts friends through her own personality. She is of Southern birth, having been born in New Orleans where she received her early education. She is of Huguenot descent and the result of French blood and Southern training may be seen in her manner. Not all the business training and experience nor the hurried rush of New York life has changed the exquisite courtesy or the real femininity of Frank Leslie. She was taught to speak French, Italian and Spanish, and her facility as a linguist has been an element in her great social success abroad. She commenced to write when thirteen years of age. Mrs. Leslie has the rich many sided nature that must of necessity find an outlet in expression, and the name of Miriam Florence was known in the literary world before its young owner became editor of one of Frank Leslie's publications. In a short time she became the wife of the famous publisher. But Mrs. Leslie never ceased to advise with her husband on business matters. She entertained the Emperor and Empress of Brazil at her Saratoga villa "Interlaken" and entertained them with no less a degree of luxury than they were accustomed to. One of Mrs. Leslie's books, *From Gotham to the Golden Gate*, was written after her trip westward in a special Pullman train that carried many of the staff of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. These artists and writers filled the pages of the paper with accounts of the journey, but Mrs. Leslie's book has all the finish of a veteran writer and all the keen appreciation of changing scenes of a sympathetic woman. Shortly after this innovation in journalism, Mr. Leslie became involved and was forced to make an assignment. Just as he completed plans for the recovery of his fallen fortunes he died. He asked his wife to carry on his plans. By act of legislature she became "Frank Leslie" and with all the splendid force of the man who had made the name famous and with a keen, aggressive yet conservative determination all her own, she won victory from defeat. Her phenomenal business success is well known. She was able at last to leave her desk with an abundant income and the prospect of leisure. She had leased her *Popular Monthly* to a syndicate while her other interests were in the Arkell Publishing Company. She was preparing for a lengthy sojourn in Europe, where she numbers among her friends the best known people in public life, when the news of the failure of the Arkell Company came over the telephone. In the moment that a fortune was swept away she called up the "Monthly" and accepted the editorship and presidency of a stock company that was to publish the magazine. Frank Leslie is again actively engaged in the publishing business. She possesses the executive ability to master details and to oversee every department of business coupled with the daring and dash that has enabled her to make lightning decisions. She has the woman's intuition with all the force of a strong business man. So much for Frank Leslie the publisher. Frank Leslie the woman is no less admired by all who come within the influence of her gracious presence. That she is a beautiful woman has been said in almost every language and every newspaper in the world. She is a woman with a kindly word and a helping hand to all women who are making the struggle that she has turned into success. Her beautiful gowns, her jewels and her presence would suggest the lady of fashion; her simple, direct manner and her instant grasp of a situation would suggest the man of affairs; but the expression of her great gray eyes and

the sensitiveness of mouth show the true womanly woman. It is as that, that Frank Leslie has won her greatest success.

Edwin Markham is widely known as the author of the poem that has moved the literary world and the great army of thinkers who study the relations of capital and labor. The one poem "The Man With the Hoe", has made its author famous wherever the English language is spoken. The income from the sale of his writings has made Mr. Markham independent. Edwin Markham was born in Oregon City, Oregon, in 1852. While he was still a child his father died and his mother brought up the family. She kept a very successful store in the city and also found time to contribute both prose and poetry to the local papers. When the boy was nine his mother purchased a sheep ranch in Central California and here the boy learned the life of the toiler in the hard struggle of life upon a farm. Before he was fifteen he had written a poem "A Dream of Chaos." He finally made his way through schools and colleges until he became a teacher. He has held various positions as principal and superintendent, for it was not until the last year that he decided to devote himself to literature. For fourteen years the thought of the celebrated poem was with him. Millet's picture "The Man With the Hoe" suggested to Mr. Markham the idea of the poem. The poem was completed on New Year's Day, 1899. It was first published in the San Francisco Examiner. Its success was instantaneous and phenomenal. Mr. Markham has been hailed as the future poet of America. He lives at present in Washington, D. C. and he is much in demand as a lecturer. The task of living up to the reputation he so suddenly achieved is no small one, but those who know Mr. Markham believe that he is capable of sustained and remarkable work.



The Countess Schimmelmaun's life story reads more like a page from the old days of knight errantry than like a record of this matter-of-fact century. The Countess is the daughter of one of the highest peers of Denmark and a granddaughter of a Prime Minister. When she was eighteen, she made her debut at the German court. The Empress Augusta chose her as lady of honor and for eighteen years she was the confidential friend of the Empress. During this time she met the leading statesmen, rulers and soldiers of the day and had the highest social honors of the court of Berlin. All the glitter and show failed to satisfy her soul. She says she longed for something higher and better. She studied her Bible and came to believe that Christianity from the Bible standpoint was a different thing from the generally accepted standards. Two events at this time made a powerful impression upon her mind. She visited the prisons of Berlin and spent a summer on one of the islands of the Baltic. Gradually the determination came to her to give her time and money to the relief of the needy and unfortunate, those whom the battle of life had gone against. She was especially interested in the poor sailors and fishermen of the Baltic. For ten years she carried on a work among them. The Emperor and Empress approved of her project and gave it substantial aid. She owns great estates in Denmark and all her income is given to the advancement of her philanthropic schemes. Her relatives have tried to prevent her from spending her money in this way and at one time confined her in an asylum. She was released through the efforts of powerful friends at court and pursued her labor of love and devotion to humanity with greater zeal than before. She purchased the royal pleasure yacht of Prince Waldemar of Denmark in order to reach her people more easily. She named the yacht *Duen*, or *Dove*. Since then the *Duen* has become known almost around the world. The work begun among the fishermen and sailors of the Baltic has extended, until the Countess has temporarily exhausted her fortune. Last summer she came to America. Her first stopping place was at Quebec, and since then she has made the tour of the lakes and the *Duen* is now in the harbor of New York. Last year the Countess visited over a hundred ships. She holds services on board her own ship and on

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those she visits. As long as her funds hold out she has a free coffee and tea kitchen on board the ship. In this way the Countess has fed thousands. She does not believe in the methods of organized charity with its inquisition of questions, but she literally obeys the command, "Feed the hungry, clothe the naked." The Countess is unmarried. She has adopted three sons whom she is educating. During her stay in New York she has spoken once or twice before large audiences. She tells the story of her life in good English. She says that she expects that money to carry on her work will come from some source as her own means are exhausted at present. For thirteen years her life has been one of great self denial and pure unselfishness. The Countess is now forty-five years of age. She is simple and direct in her manner and seems to have no other aim in life than to give herself, her time and her wealth to doing the service of Christ as He commanded in His word.

Gen. Redvers H. Buller, V. C., a famous officer in Her Majesty's army in South Africa, is a heavy, large-boned man with few society graces. He seems almost ungainly, with a severe face and a curt, incisive manner. He is straightforward in manner and determined in purpose. In many ways he resembles the Boers whom he hopes to overcome. He is tenacious of purpose, quiet and seemingly phlegmatic but with a masterful way that inspires confidence. He was but nineteen years of age when he procured his commission and entered the English army. Since then he has seen service in many lands. He was a member of the famous Red River expedition and won the favor and approval of his superior officer, Gen. Wolseley. He was made a chief officer in an expedition against the Ashantees and then was sent into South Africa. Here he won a reputation for cool daring and bravery and also as a thorough drill master. He won his V. C., or Victoria Cross, by his act when the British forces were retreating down a steep, rocky hill with the savages in close pursuit, when he took a wounded officer behind him on his horse. He carried him to a place of safety and then twice again performed the same act of valor. In 1882 he had become "Sir" Redvers and he then entered upon the famous Egyptian campaign. Again in 1885 he saw service on the Nile in one of England's most disastrous campaigns. Instances might be multiplied of the great executive ability and calm courage that distinguish the British commander. He has known rebuff,

retreat and defeat but he has shown an ability to bring order out of chaos and to snatch victory when defeat seemed inevitable. He has not seen active service since the Nile campaign until the day he landed in South Africa. He had a brief service in Ireland and temporarily filled the position of under secretary for Ireland. He has had plenty of experience in detail and bureau work and is the author of the Infantry Drill Book, which is said to be the best book of its kind ever written. Gen. Buller is sixty years of age but it is safe to say, in spite of reverses, that the South African command could not have fallen into abler hands.

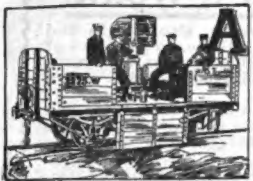


Ruth McEnery Stuart is one of a group of Southern women who have won distinction with the pen. Her stories of Southern life are marked by a rare sense of humor. She writes both prose and poetry and has been a constant contributor to all the leading magazines. Mrs. Stuart has a

quiet, strong face, with calm, dark eyes and mobile features. There is a repose about her that is very restful. She sometimes reads from her published books and although she disclaims any gift as an elocutionist still those who hear her receive a never forgotten impression. The soft, slow voice and the Southern accent are peculiarly fitted to the dialect stories of the negro as he seemed "befo de wah". Mrs. Stuart is of Scotch descent. Her son is called Sterling Stuart and is a popular member of the Boys' High School of New York, where he has won no small fame as an all round athlete. Mrs. Stuart has a charming apartment in New York during the winter and in summer she has a home on Onteora mountain. Here she finds time for her favorite diversion—the study of mycology. She collects all the varieties of edible mushrooms and then proves that she can cook the tidbits as well as distinguish them from the common toad stools. Mrs. Stuart has won the greatest fame as a short story writer. There is a strong personal element in her work that seems to bring her own personality close to the reader. There is an undercurrent of the pathos that always goes with humor. This is very noticeable in her poems. She has won both financial and literary success and is generally acknowledged as one of the leading literary workers of the day.

Progress of the South African War.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



PERSON reading the newspaper accounts of the Boer war will often feel confused as to the situation and the conduct of the war. The South African republic, which is commonly called the

Transvaal, is in general appearance a square strip of territory bounded on the south by the Vaal River, which is the northern boundary of the Orange Free State, which is an ally of the Transvaal. Almost in the center and toward the south of the Transvaal is the capital, Pretoria, and a short distance to the southwest is Johannesburg. The objective point of the British campaign will necessarily be Pretoria, the capital. Neither of these states have any sea coast but are surrounded by British territory. The great problem which the British have to overcome is the keeping open of lines of communication, which are something like eight hundred miles in length, and which by a flank movement on the part of the alert Boers could be easily cut.

The principal fighting at the present time is not in the Transvaal itself, but in the British territory near the Orange Free State to the south of it. On the extreme west is the city of Kimberley, with its valuable diamond mines, which is now being besieged. On the extreme right, and within the British territory of Cape Colony, is the city of Ladysmith, which is on the line of railroad from the coast to Pretoria. This is also being besieged and bombarded by the Boers. South of this and nearer the coast is Pietermaritzburg, within the province of the same name. This is but a short distance from the Indian Ocean coast and is a city of considerable size. It is from here that a great many of the telegrams are sent giving accounts of the siege of Ladysmith. Many of these are brought in by native runners who are clad only in a breech clout and are painted to the color of the desert sands, and manage to work their way from the besieged city through the Boer lines into English territory. The city of Mafeking is also being besieged. This city is on the extreme west of the Transvaal republic, just inside English territory and far to the north of Kimberley. It is about these three points, or on the roads leading to them, that the different fights have occurred. The country, especially on the east side, is very mountainous, and the Boers are fighting on strategic points heavily entrenched and on the defensive.

Readers will remember that a man entrenched is considered to be equal to three men in the open. Calculations of military men at the present time make this number even greater, giving one entrenched man with modern equipment an equality with five men fighting in the open. By this it will be seen the great difficulty that the English have in driving these Boers from their line of defense.

The average reader pays little attention to the events which bring about a war; and although much was printed previous to the actual fighting, very few of the more intelligent readers really understand what the war is about. There is a great deal of sentiment about it being a sister republic and many other things raised pro and con which really have little bearing on the case. This war, like many others, is really brought about by commercial spirit, and throwing all sentiment aside is the old question of the survival of the fittest. The Boers represent a civilization of two centuries ago, and with all their good qualities are unprogressive and are standing in the way of the future development of Africa. The British represent commercial supremacy and advanced civilization and modern progress, and their way is blocked by the Transvaal republic. No matter what the excuse is, or what the reasons for actual warfare may be, there is undoubtedly the desire on the part of the great owners and tax payers of the Transvaal, who are not Dutch, to have the republic itself under English law and English dominion, and this is the real reason of the present fight.

To the impartial observer, as we have said, it would seem to be a case of the survival of the fittest. The sentiment that the Dutch are being driven out of their own country by English conquest would be just as applicable to the natives whom the Dutch drove out of the same territory. When they crossed the Vaal river and took possession of this country they were for years fighting the determined warriors of the African tribes who were in full possession of the country and had been peaceable and never gave up their possession until the Dutch Boers conquered them; and this is within the memory of a large proportion of the readers of this paper. This is merely written to show that there are all sides to all questions. A paper published in this country recently a translation of the demands which were made by the foreign residents before the declaration of war during the crisis. What the Uitlander

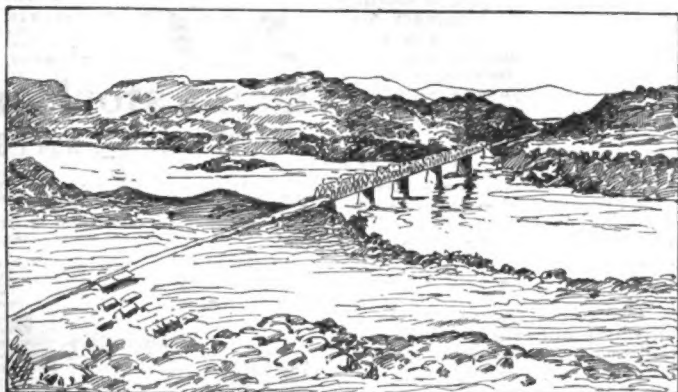
demands as formulated in the official papers was as follows:

1. The right to vote for the real legislative authority—the First Chamber of the Volksraad, not the impotent Second Chamber.
2. Such a redistribution of seats for the gold-fields in the Volksraad as will give to them a proper representation. At present there is none at all. The Transvaal now offers one-fifth, but the Uitlanders represent three-fifths of the people. They pay nine-tenths of the taxation, yet they have nothing to say about the expenditure of a penny. Americans justly went to war with us on account of taxation without representation, and Uitlanders parallel their case with that of our forefathers.
3. A Constitution safeguarded from sudden changes. At present an ordinary resolution of the Volksraad may change the existing Constitution.
4. The heads of the Government responsible to the Volksraad.
5. Independence of the courts. At present, if a judge does not respect any chance vote of the Volksraad, he is dismissed from office. Chief Justice Kotze was so dismissed. This, in the opinion of many, is the great demand; the trouble is not so much a matter of the franchise. The most necessary reform is to free the judges from all interference by the Executive and the Volksraad. In all rightly governed countries the judges on the bench should be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion.
6. Cancellation of monopolies. This, of course, is far less important than the foregoing; it can more easily be adjusted.
7. Equality in recognition by the courts of the English and Dutch languages, just as we have it in Cape Colony.
8. Removal of religious disabilities. Neither Roman Catholics nor Jews may hold office.
9. Reorganization of the civil service.
10. A free press.
11. Proper schools.



GENERAL P. A. CRONJE.

At present, if a judge does not respect any chance vote of the Volksraad, he is dismissed from office. Chief Justice Kotze was so dismissed. This, in the opinion of many, is the great demand; the trouble is not so much a matter of the franchise. The most necessary reform is to free the judges from all interference by the Executive and the Volksraad. In all rightly governed countries the judges on the bench should be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion.



THE BATTLEFIELD AT COLENZO.

the majority of the population, while the majority contribute nine-tenths of the money for the support of the same government, is a fact which will show any American how he naturally would feel. English papers claim that nine out of every ten Americans in the Transvaal support the Uitlander demands; and what is true of them is also true of German and French who are there, although their governments at home are bitterly hostile to the British policy.

All these points are contended by the Dutch republic, which claims entire rights over the country and that they wish to be let alone. They are an upright, God-fearing race of men, stubborn in their convictions and rather slow of comprehension, but undoubtedly having full faith in the righteousness of their present conflict.

The foregoing is not written with any intention to take sides in the contest; but to give COMFORT's readers a clearer idea of the causes which led to the present unhappy struggle. In the same manner without attempting a historical story of the progress of the war we shall endeavor to give a concise statement of the military movement to show our readers the

present situation. And it must be remembered that when this reaches the readers' eyes nearly a month will have elapsed since it was written and great changes may have taken place. At the time of writing (New Year's) both sides are quiet. The Boers are preparing for further resistance on the defensive, while the British are anxiously awaiting reinforcements to make another attempt to advance to the relief of the besieged cities. And near these armies are the points at which decisive battles may be fought any day.

As was above pointed out, there are three points now invested by the Boers and to the relief of which separate columns have been despatched. It must be remembered at the beginning that the Boers on declaring war rushed over the border and at once commenced investing three cities situated in three points; and all of great value and difficult to relieve.

To the westward is Kimberley. This is the city where the diamond mines are situated and where Cecil Rhodes, the African Magnate, has his headquarters. Although surrounded by the Boers, the garrison and inhabitants have successfully held out against them for several weeks and successfully repelled every assault. To the relief of this point Gen. Methuen's army is advancing from the south from Cape Colony along the line of railroad. His march has been checked all the way from De Aar by the Boers destroying the bridges and roadbed. Several battles were fought on the line; at Orange river, with heavy loss on both sides; at Belmont, Graspan and Modder river, only 25 miles from Kimberley. It was a terrible slaughter at the last place and a practical defeat for Methuen although the British still hold their ground unable to advance further.

The second, or Central army under Gen. Gatacre is moving upon the Orange Free State with the intention of reaching its objective point of Bloemfontein, the capital. This column met with an overwhelming reverse at Stormberg, on December 10th, where it unexpectedly met a strong Boer army, which ambushed the advancing force. So severe was this defeat that further advance was impossible and may lead to the abandonment of this line of action.

The third column is led by Sir Redvers Buller, of whom much was expected as he was the commander-in-chief of all the British forces in South Africa. This army landed at Durban on the East coast and hastened forward to the relief of Gen. White besieged at Ladysmith, the point to which the English at Glencoe fell back at the beginning of the conflict. On the 14th of December, Buller attempted to cross the Tugela river at Colenso and met with a crushing repulse in which he lost 1097 men, sixty-five being officers. He also lost 11 cannon, which was three times as many as Wellington lost to Napoleon in the whole Peninsular campaign. At this writing the success is entirely with the Boers; but the consensus of public opinion shows general belief in Boer defeat in time.

The Boer generals who have so distinguished themselves are Gen. P. A. Cronje, who defeated Lord Methuen at Modder river, and his superior General Piet Joubert, who defeated Buller himself and whose strategical ability so far has proven more than a match for the whole English Military Council. In England there has been a great outcry against the War Office, much as existed in this country during the Spanish War. Gen. Roberts, the Afghan hero, has been sent to Africa in supreme command. Gen. Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, the conqueror of the Mahdi, goes as his Chief of staff.

Among the devices made use of in this war are searchlights. Our initial cut shows how one from the ship *Powerful* was mounted on an armored car. It is said by employing a screen, signals from this light at Ladysmith have been flashed thirty miles. The other picture represents the exact scene of the terrible battle at Colenso. The level ground near the bridge is where the guns were captured. The banks of the stream are very steep with the edges partially covered by low brush, but on the south side of the river from where the picture is taken, there is absolutely no shelter, not even a tree.

The Boers were sheltered by the south bank of the river and firmly entrenched on the north



LORD ROBERTS OF KANDAHAR.

bank and are said to have had a superior army to Buller's. Without proper reconnaissance he advanced and when attacked in his attempt to cross the river was at the mercy of the alert and mobile foe. At any time we may look for news of startling character as men and supplies are being rushed forward in desperate haste to succor the English.

TWO FINE SPECIMENS

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No form of athletic exercise demands such perfect physical condition as prize fighting. Every muscle in the body must be fully developed and supple, and the heart, lungs and stomach must act to perfection.

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James Jefferies, the present champion heavy weight of the world, and his gallant opponent, Tom Sharkey, in the greatest pugilistic encounter that has ever taken place, both pursued much the same course of training and the first and most important part of this training was to get the stomach in condition, and keep the digestion absolutely perfect, so that every muscle and nerve would be at its highest capabilities.

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The advantage of the daily use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets is that they keep the people well and ward off sickness and are equally valuable to well persons as to the dyspeptics. Another advantage is that these tablets contain no cathartics, or poisons of any character, but simply digestive ferments which are found in every healthy stomach, and when digestion is imperfect it is because the stomach lacks some of these elements and Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets supply it.

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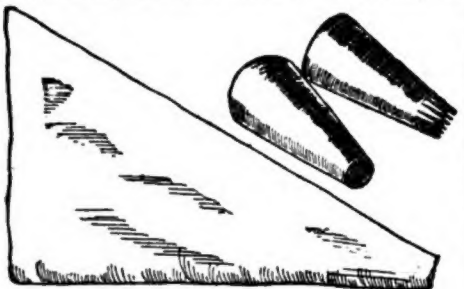
HERE is nothing more fascinating to the housewife than the decoration of the table for dinner parties, Christmas and Thanksgiving feasts, and all of the other extra times when we may indulge in something that is not strictly to be eaten.

At all times one may have a silver or china jardiniere filled with ferns and a cocoa palm, for the center of the table, and this gives the eyes something restful to look at and at the same time makes the meal seem more cozy and cheerful,—setting off the cloth and silver and glass by way of contrast.

In addition to this regular decoration, vines may be used to run out to the ends and sides of the table from the centerpiece—or, if there are to be a number of covers and the room for this cannot be spared, use silver candleabra on either end of the table, and decorate the chandelier, over the center of the table, with as much green as can be obtained.

At a recent lunch for ladies, a novel idea was the formation, from the green centerpiece, of rays of narrow red ribbon, one end of each piece ending at each cover, and the other end being tucked carefully into the green at the center. After the lunch had been served, each guest was told to pull on the end of the ribbon, and at the other end was found a card, which was hidden in the greenery, and which had upon it a question to be answered and a line of poetry. Simply an idea for keeping people busy either in answering the question or in wondering from what poem the verse was chosen.

An idea for a doorway is suggested, which is particularly appropriate for the door leading into the dining room. A pole should be fastened across the top of the door, inside the frame, and from this hang ropes of evergreen, just clearing the floor. Half of these may be



PASTRY BAG AND ENDS.

tied back with a ribbon, or all may be left to hang, as they are easily pushed aside on passing through the door.

Next to the table decoration comes the decoration of the dainties which milady serves to her guests.

It often happens that for a luncheon or tea, there is little that can be served which looks really attractive, except the salad, or a dessert that can be served with a quantity of whipped cream. Then the dish is made specially pretty by the use of the pastry bag, for putting on the dressing, or the cream.

A pastry bag is made of a square of rubber cloth, usually about ten inches square. Fold over the two opposite corners toward the center, and seam up on the machine the two edges coming together, leaving at the point an inch that has not been sewed. Cut off the little point of cloth that sticks out at this corner, and a small opening will remain, just large enough for the insertion, from the inside, of tubes, or tin ends. We give an illustration of a bag and two of the ends most common, one of which is plain, and the other cut in points—called the rose tube. The tube is pushed into the bag, and then the bag is filled with the dressing or whipped cream or beaten egg—whatever is to be used, and forced through the tube. When all is used, the bag is simply washed and hung up to dry, and is then ready for the next time. The bags cost from 35 cents up to 75, according to size, but can be made for considerably less by buying the rubber cloth. The tubes cost ten cents each. Confectioners who are experts often use simply a cornucopia of stiff paper, for the frosting of cake etc., and arrive at the very best results—but for the beginner it is easier to have the stiff point from which to squeeze the dressing, and then the roses or vines are more likely to be uniform in size. A salad thus decorated is much more attractive than when the dressing is simply stirred in—and a shortcake, or uncovered pie, such as lemon, looks quite festive when decorated with these vines and roses of frosting.



APRICOT FOAM.

Many people do not know what delicious pies may be made from stewed apricot. The dried apricots may be bought at all times of the year, and when stewed with sugar and strained they make a very good pie for a change. This sort of a pie should have strips of the crust across the top, instead of a top crust, to make it more attractive.

Apricot is also delicious when stewed, strained and beaten up with the whites of eggs. For this, half a pound of apricots should be soaked in lukewarm water over night; in the morning add a cup of sugar and stew until soft; rub through a strainer and set away to cool. Just before time to serve, beat the whites



BAKED SQUASH.

of two eggs to a stiff froth and then beat in the apricot and pile onto a glass dish. Serve very cold.

How many of you have ever thought of baking your squash, instead of steaming? Of course small squash should be used, as they are served whole. For this, cut out a small circle around the stem and remove the seeds; brush the inside with butter, shake in a little salt and pepper and bake. Serve the squash whole, on a napkin, and in serving each person, cut a piece from the squash following the lines of indentation on the rind.

WHY WOMEN ARE NERVOUS.

[British Medical News.]

The frequent cases of nervous prostration or utter collapse of the nervous system under which women "go all to pieces," as the saying is, have caused much thought and investigation on the part of physicians.

Certain inorganic substances are well known to cause various forms of nervous diseases which are readily traced to the poisons producing them. Further research leads to the belief that alum is a prevailing cause of so-called nervous prostration, for the symptoms it produces on the nervous system after its absorption into the blood are very remarkable indeed. Experiments physiologically made upon animals by Orfila, Professors Hans Mayer, Paul Seim and others, show that alum frequently produces no visible symptoms for many days after its introduction into the body. Then follow loss of appetite and other alimentary disturbances, and finally a serious prostration of the whole nervous system. The most prominent physicians now believe that "nervous prostration" and many affections of the nerves from which both men and women suffer are caused by the continued absorption of alum into the system.

It is probable that many medical men are unaware of the extent to which salts of alumina may be introduced into the body, being under the impression that the use of alum in bread is prohibited. Alum, however, is still used surreptitiously to some extent to whiten bread, and very largely in making cheap kinds of baking powder. In families where baking powder is generally used great care should be exercised to procure only those brands made from cream of tartar. The alum powders may generally be distinguished by the lower price at which they are sold.

ONE of the most remarkable rings in the world is "The Ring of the Fisherman," worn by the Pope and handed down by each one to his successor. In this ring St. Peter is seen sitting in a boat and holding in each hand a net. This ring is kept in charge by the grand chamberlain of his Holiness, and, in the event of his death the name of the Pope is at once erased from its surface and the name of his successor is engraved upon it immediately upon his election to the office.

FERROL, the principal naval arsenal of Spain, lies on the north arm of the Bay of Betanzas. Its harbor is one of the best in Europe, and is entered by a narrow strait, still guarded by the canties of San Felipe and Palma, mounting several guns. The town is strongly fortified on the land side. Its vast arsenal and dock yard cover twenty-four acres, and comprise many magnificent storehouses and docks. There are two dry docks, the larger being four hundred and seventy-four feet long.

FREDERIC Macmonnies, the sculptor, has his studio and grounds fitted up with models which are a terror to human visitors. A raging panther occupies a cage in one corner, while various other wild beasts are quartered here both in house and grounds. Four beautiful, high-spirited horses have the freedom of the place and are sometimes driven at full speed across and across the sunny garden-court for hours at a time in order that the artist may study their anatomy and action, and imitate them in clay.

THE first pension ever granted to a Chinaman was issued July 20 to Ah Yu, of Shanghai, China. Ah Yu has faithfully served Uncle Sam since July, 1884, as landsman, mess assistant and cabin steward. His last service was when attached to Admiral Dewey's flagship, the Olympia, in 1897. Since then he has been in a hospital at Yokohama, suffering from a disease of the lungs, and has at last, becoming no better and there being no hopes of his ever becoming so, been discharged from the service and pensioned for the remainder of his days. His pension calls for \$30 per month, with back pay amounting to \$510.



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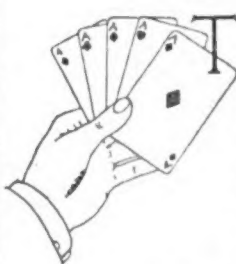
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The Origin of Playing Cards.



THE costumes of the pictured playing cards of the ordinary pack are very quaint, and one would hardly suppose them to have been copied originally from real people. It is a fact, however, that the king is Henry VIII., though on the present cards only a few suggestions remain of the peculiarities of his costume, which at one time was covered with correct heraldic devices. The king of hearts is the most warlike in appearance, bearing as he does an uplifted sword, as if in the act of striking. The king of spades is armed with a battle axe; the king of clubs and also of diamonds bears a doubled-edged sword.

At one time cards were influenced by the Italian fashions imported into France by Catherine de Medici, and after the French revolution the kings of the pack were changed to represent sages and philosophers; but the kings and queens returned to the pack when the monarchy was restored.

The queen of the cards is said to be Elizabeth of York, mother of Henry VIII., and the rose of York in her hand has been preserved up to date.

The grotesque dress of the knaves of the pack has remained practically unchanged during centuries. It was taken from the ordinary costume of the lower classes. The knave of hearts has a battle axe in one hand and a laurel leaf in the other. The queer looking emblem in the hand of the knave of clubs is supposed to be an arrow. The knave of diamonds holds a pike with a hook. The twist ribbon on the knave of spades is supposed to have been intended to represent the fool's staff, with the gay ribbons twined around it. The knave is called Jack from his fool's dress, the slang name for a jester being Jack.

It is said that the gypsies brought the first cards into Europe about the time of the Crusades; they used them then as they do now, for fortune-telling. Packs originally contained seventy-two cards. Several kinds of cards are used in China, one pack having thirty-two covered with small circular dots in red and black, the court cards being of one man and one woman. Chinese cards are usually printed in black on thin cardboard, one inch wide by three and a half inches long.

Whist is of Chinese origin.

THE elephants of the Indian army are fed in a peculiar way. The ten pounds of rice which make a breakfast for one of them is done up in leaves and tied with grass. The animals are drawn up in line before a row of piles of this food. At the word of command each elephant raises his trunk and one of these bundles is thrown into his capacious mouth. This is continued until every elephant has received his allotment of food.

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Remember we will send one of these sets to you by freight for a club of only eleven subscribers to this monthly at 25c. each. If you delay until next issue they will cost much more. Address FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.

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From Japan. Bears in marvelous profusion little golden oranges no larger than a damson plum. The whole fruit, rind and all, is eaten. Delicious preserved and crystallized. A most elegant little window plant producing real orange blossoms. In bloom or fruit all the time. Grafted on dwarf stock and need not become over 18 inches high. Fine bushy plants 40c. each, postpaid. Printed directions for culture with each order FREE. Write for catalogue of RARE FLORIDA FLOWERS AND FRUITS. THE JESSAMINE GARDENS, JESSAMINE, FLORIDA.

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"THE LIGHT THAT WON'T GO OUT."

Every family in America is ready to buy "The Light that sells on sight"—the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT WICK.

It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle, discards kerosene, beats gas, and almost equals electricity or sunlight. It saves 20 per cent. of oil. It's clear, white and brilliant. It's the light that won't go out. It's the light in the window for the night.

The ARC-LIGHT is something new. All need it, all buy it, all praise it. To show it means to sell it, and it yields from 100 per cent. to 200 per cent. profit to you.

The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavits showing that an Arc-Light burned 1040 hours, giving the last hour the same perfect, brilliant, light it gave the rest.

A single lamp manufacturer in New England, who boasts over 35,000 testimonials: "The Arc-Light beats all others. It sells our lamps, and turns nights into day. Every

home, store, hotel, car company with night. We have manufacturers to carry, and we wholesale terms. Medium or A for house lamps—dozen, 25 cents; wicks, for hand, 5 cents; 12 wide, sample, 5 cents; 25 wide, sample, 5 cents; 35 wide, sample, 5 cents; 45 wide, sample, 5 cents; 55 wide, sample, 5 cents; 65 wide, sample, 5 cents; 75 wide, sample, 5 cents; 85 wide, sample, 5 cents; 95 wide, sample, 5 cents; 105 wide, sample, 5 cents; 115 wide, sample, 5 cents; 125 wide, sample, 5 cents; 135 wide, sample, 5 cents; 145 wide, sample, 5 cents; 155 wide, sample, 5 cents; 165 wide, sample, 5 cents; 175 wide, sample, 5 cents; 185 wide, sample, 5 cents; 195 wide, sample, 5 cents; 205 wide, sample, 5 cents; 215 wide, sample, 5 cents; 225 wide, sample, 5 cents; 235 wide, sample, 5 cents; 245 wide, sample, 5 cents; 255 wide, sample, 5 cents; 265 wide, sample, 5 cents; 275 wide, sample, 5 cents; 285 wide, sample, 5 cents; 295 wide, sample, 5 cents; 305 wide, sample, 5 cents; 315 wide, sample, 5 cents; 325 wide, sample, 5 cents; 335 wide, sample, 5 cents; 345 wide, sample, 5 cents; 355 wide, sample, 5 cents; 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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department. No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Max Bennett Thrasher,	\$3.00
J. A. Woods,	2.50
Louella Spence,	2.00
J. W. Cole,	1.50
W. N. Elder,	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

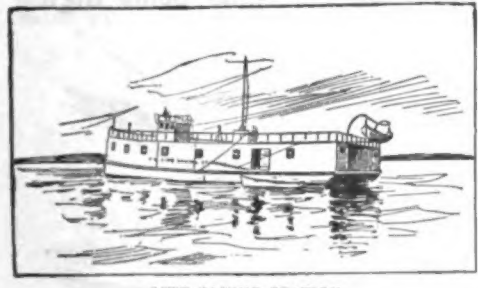
Again we have rounded out the year that dates back in its beginning to this, the shortest of all the months, but which, short as it is, holds in its embrace so many events of historic interest. Like all her brothers and sisters, February is a many-sided month, and her smiles or frowns depend entirely upon the spot from which we view her. To our cousin of the first letter, who writes from the bleak shores of Massachusetts, she shows a frozen face; while to the soldier in the Philippines who sends us the second she smiles with warm and sunny grace.

And so it ever is. In our mental as well as in our physical lives we cannot all see the golden side of the shield, but we can all do our best in the spot where we are placed and remember how true it is that—

"Life, my dear, is what you make it,
And the world is as you take it."

But now let us attend to our mail. Here is a letter on the life-saving station near Boston, Massachusetts.

"In Dorchester Bay, near Boston, the United States Government has been trying an experiment in the shape of a floating life-saving station which



LIFE-SAVING STATION.

has worked very successfully. This is the only station of the kind in the country, if not in the world, except one much smaller at the falls in the Kentucky River, at Louisville.

"Dorchester Bay is the place where nearly all the yacht clubs of Boston rendezvous. Sometimes two hundred boats can be counted under sail there at one time, and there are also many rowboats and many bathers. On account of the numerous accidents there, and too often deaths by drowning, the Government established this station. It is a big, flat boat, shaped like a huge flat-iron, and is anchored in the bay from the first of May until the middle of November. Ten men, including Captain E. C. Glawson, live on board all of the time. A lookout is built on the top of the upper deck and in this day and night, a man is all the time on watch for accidents. Two gasoline launches are ready to start at a moment's notice to carry out the captain and men to the rescue. Since the station has been there it has saved many lives and thousands of dollars worth of property.



LOOKOUT TOWER ON LIFE-SAVING STATION.

"I was spending a day on the station not long ago. It was hot, or would have been except for a strong wind which had tempted a number of sail boats out. I had been sitting on deck, talking with the captain, when all at once he shouted, 'Ring the alarm!' and disappeared down through a scuttle before I knew anything was the matter. A bell began to clang and the men, who all wear white duck suits, began to tumble into the boats. It took just forty-five seconds for the launch to get under way, towing a tender behind. The captain had seen a

cat-boat, about a quarter of a mile away, capsized. There were two boys in her. They clung to the keel until the launch reached them and then were brought to the station and given dry clothes while their clothes were hung out on a line on deck to dry. The boat was towed ashore and beached. The day before the launch rescued a party of six who had been capsized in a sloop and who must almost certainly have drowned if it had not been for this timely aid."

Next comes a description, sent us by an old friend, of a curiosity in the way of a potter.

"Among the curious places of interest in Biloxi, Mississippi, none more deserve mention than the art pottery owned by Mr. George Ohr of that place. This curious shop is the greatest show place in town and its owner has become famous at home and abroad by the quaint and almost indescribable shapes he has fashioned out of clay.

"The building is about half a dozen stories high, each one smaller than the one just below, and the inside is most oddly constructed, while on the shelves and ranged around the walls are countless designs from which one may select some unique specimen of pottery. Mr. Ohr is a genial, pleasant faced man, and is most courteous to all his visitors, but as he fashions the clay in whatever design happens to impress itself on his mind at the time, it is



GEORGE E. OHR'S CURIOUS POTTERY.

a peculiarity that but one thing of a kind is ever found on his shelves.

"One of the greatest curiosities of this odd shop is the puzzle drinking cup from which, if one knows the secret, he may drink without spilling, but not a drop will come to the mouth of those not in the secret. Visitors always buy some specimen and often get a souvenir gift from the owner. Among the quaint compositions are the queerest sort of pipes, quaintly shaped inkstands and flower vases, and almost anything one may wish for. If the article desired is not in stock Mr. Ohr will make it while you wait for it. So satisfied is he of his skill in this line of work that he challenges the potters of the world to compete with him in producing unique and original designs."

LOUELLA SPENCE, Pass Christian, Miss.

About two or three months ago we had a letter written by a soldier in the Philippines, and now here is one from another soldier there; but as this one takes us into a comparatively unknown part of the islands I think you will find it interesting. The first letter was from Manila, I believe. Our correspondent says:

"Much has been said and written of our new possessions in the Philippines and their sullen inhabitants which have given our Government so much trouble; but the subject is still new, so a few words from the island of Jalo may be of interest to the readers of *COMFORT*.

"We took possession of this island on the tenth day of June, the Spaniards having already surrendered. The natives offered no resistance and are very friendly. The twenty-third infantry was sent here from Manila to relieve the Spanish garrison. Jalo is one of the most southerly of the Philippines and is only about six degrees north of the equator. The island of Borneo is our immediate neighbor, lying only twenty miles to the south-east, and may be seen on any clear day. The natives of Jalo are the same as those of Borneo. We have all heard of the wild man of Borneo, but none of us ever expected to own him, as we certainly now do. Most of the extreme southerly islands of the Philippines are inhabited by this race; though fierce and war-like in appearance we have had no trouble with them yet, and very possibly may never have. At first we momentarily expected an outbreak, but none came, and now things are relaxing a little as we get better acquainted. The natives all carry spears about eight feet in length and knives three feet long, which they wield with great dexterity. With the spear they have been seen to kill birds on the wing.

"They are a very strange class of people, wearing little or no clothing, and many of them so closely resemble the ape that they are never seen to speak. Those who do talk chatter precisely like apes and monkeys. They have no religion whatever, and do not even worship idols. They are repulsive and degraded, and the words used by Stanley in describing the natives of equatorial Africa will apply equally well to these people—'Ugly, uglier, ugliest.' They differ very much from the Filipinos of Luzon Island, the Filipino being vastly the more intelligent. These people call themselves Moros, never having heard of Aguinaldo, or the island of Luzon. They think the island of Borneo is the largest country in the world, and cannot be made to understand the magnitude of the United States.

"Jalo is healthfully situated and the climate is delightful; the heat is not unbearable, and the nights are remarkably cool for a tropical country. The soil is very productive, almost any tropical product thriving in it. The water is good and very plentiful, and there has been little or no sickness among the soldiers since our arrival here.

"Many more interesting things might be said of our new possessions here, and if our kind Aunt will permit I may write again."

J. A. Woods, Jalo Island, Philippines.

Now comes a visitor from a Kentucky tobacco field.

"I wonder how many of our cousins ever saw a field of growing tobacco. A brief description of the cultivation of a crop which forms one of the largest articles of commerce, and one which has made Kentucky famous, may interest Aunt Minerva's readers.

"In January or February a seed bed is prepared, generally upon a hillside with a southern slope, by piling a large amount of rubbish together and burning it. This is done to destroy any foreign seed that might be in the soil. After this the bed is dug up and the soil made very fine, then the seed is sown and a thin cloth placed over the bed to protect the small plants from insects.

"When the plants get about three inches high they are transplanted to the field which has been prepared for them by plowing up the field two or three times and harrowing it until the soil is in good condition; rows are then checked off about three and one-half feet apart each way and at each check a hill is made by a 'man with a hoe'. And then, when it rains, if the plants are large enough they are transplanted to the hills. After this the

plants are cultivated until they get so large that a plow or cultivator cannot be run between the plants without damage to them. When the cultivator is stopped, sometimes before, the top is broken out of each plant, leaving from eight to twenty leaves on each one, according to the strength of the soil. Once a week after the top is broken out each plant has to be 'suckered', as it is called, which is nothing more than breaking out a small shoot that grows out where each leaf joins the main stalk of the plant.

"When the plants are ripe they are cut by splitting the stalk down the center to about three inches from the bottom and cutting off at the ground. The plants are then hung on a stick about four feet long, eight or ten plants to the stick, and hauled to a barn where these sticks are hung up. When a barn is filled, which is usually done in two days' time, a fire is started underneath the hanging plants which soon 'cures' them. Soon afterwards they are ready for 'stripping', which is done in damp weather, by pulling the leaves from the stalk and tying them up in small bundles or 'hands' of five to ten leaves in a 'hand.' When this work is completed the tobacco is packed into hogsheads and by using great pressure with a screw made for the purpose, two and three thousand pounds are pressed into a very small bulk. It is then ready for the manufacturers of plug tobacco, cigars, smoking tobacco, snuff, etc. Much tobacco of the inferior grades is used in great dyeing establishments and in many other ways."

J. W. Cole, Benton, Kentucky.

Our next letter is also from Kentucky, but is upon a very different subject from the last.

"On April 30, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated the first President of our nation. And as that day is now historic we celebrated its return in 1898 by visiting the old homestead of a man whom the people of the United States honored by conferring upon him in 1837 the office of Vice President of the country.—Colonel Richard M. Johnson.

"We started about eleven in the morning for the old plantation, which lies about five miles from Georgetown, Scott Co., Ky., and were soon at the village of Great Crossings, situated on both banks of the deep blue Elkhorn river, which winds its course through the 'Garden Spot of the World,' the blue-grass region of Kentucky. Passing through the village and over the fine pike with many beautiful residences on either side, we finally arrived at the end of our journey.

"Some large stone houses which had been used as schoolhouses for the Indians first attracted our attention. Colonel Johnson's old home is of brick and has the ante-bellum appearance so noticeable all through the South. It is pillared up over a precipice on the north side with limestone rocks. Down in the back yard, a most beautiful lawn of blue grass dotted with violets, were many tall green trees, and a large, bottomless spring of pure water. Opposite this spring, on a little mound, was an old locust stump which is famous as being the rostrum from which Lafayette addressed the people of Kentucky on his celebrated visit to America in 1824.

"On the east side of the house white ducks were dabbling in a little brooklet that winds its way through the green meadows until it meets the Elkhorn, while on the south the cattle and horses were grazing.

"Col. Johnson, who was distinguished in his military career as well as in his office as Vice-President, is reputed to have been the slayer of the famous Indian Chief, Tecumseh, but as this latter is a much-disputed point, we do not vouch for its truth. Colonel Johnson died at Richmond, Va., and his body now rests under a stately monument at Louisville, Kentucky."

W. B. Elder, Albany, Ky.

Still another letter on Washington and his times, but this one takes us to the historic old city of Boston.

"On this spot stood Washington, who looking down upon the floor below, said 'One would have thought they might at least have spared the temples of the country.'

"A sign with this inscription on it hangs on the balcony of the famous Old South Church on Washington street, Boston. When the British soldiers occupied Boston, during the Revolutionary War they wantonly tore out the pews from this, then the leading church in this city, and used the floor for a riding school. Of course the damage done



OLD SOUTH CHURCH, WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON.

was great, and when the British were driven out of the city and Washington, just having entered, stood on the spot marked by the sign it was like looking down into a stable.

"Interest in the quaint old church is increased just now from the fact that the roof has become so decayed by age that it is no longer safe, and is to be replaced at once. The old roof is of wood, with massive wooden timbers mortised together into a frame. One queer thing about the roof is that it is double, one roof beneath another, with a space of a foot in between. Oddly enough history has preserved no record of why this was built in this way, and architects guess for a reason. Some think one roof leaked and another was built over it. The new roof is to be of iron, but in shape it will be exactly like the old one, so that when done the appearance of the old church will not be changed. The Old South is not used as a place of worship now, but as a historical museum. On patriotic holidays the school children of Boston meet there to sing patriotic songs and hear addresses by famous men and women."

LAWRENCE HADLEY, Boston, Mass.

Here is a pleasant letter from a cousin in far-away Oregon. She or he says:

"As I sat to-day looking over the columns of *COMFORT* I could heartily endorse the opinion of a friend who remarked to me, '*COMFORT* paper is indeed a comfort.' What a rest to look over the letters from various states and seeing, as we read, those many pleasant places brings a change and rest into our hard-working lives."

"Now perhaps some of your readers would like

to know something of this beautiful Rogue River valley. It is one of the most fertile valleys I have ever visited, about forty-five miles long by eighteen wide, and has a railroad running its entire length. There are many pretty towns in it, both on the railroad and throughout the valley. Of these Ashland lies at the southern end of the valley, near the foot of the Siskiyou mountains, and is a city of about four thousand inhabitants. The surrounding hills contain many rich mines, while in the valley all kinds of fruits and vegetables are grown. I am told that there were gathered fifteen hundred and ninety gallons of small fruits last season from the garden of one small rented farm of forty-five acres near here. If any of the eastern cousins are tired of the snow and ice of that bleak region, and would like a nice little home here where to-day, the fifteenth of November, the air is as pleasant as in August, I will be glad to assist them if they will write to me of their wish. I found a nice home in California through the columns of *COMFORT*, and I shall be glad to be of use to others in finding a home in a mild climate."

C. MARSHALL, Ashland, Jackson Co., Oregon.

Now we will visit Nevada a State which we have hitherto rather neglected in our travels.

"One of the most costly and substantial yet short-lived of bridges was the one built over twenty years ago across one end of the beautiful Washoe lake eight miles south of Virginia City, Nevada.

"When the celebrated Ophir mine was being worked and was at the height of its glory there was not sufficient water power in the immediate vicinity with which to run a mill to work the ore.

"However, some ten miles from the mine lay Washoe lake from whose abundance water could be pumped to carry on the great mining enterprise.

"It was a difficult matter however to obtain a site for a mill as the lake's shores were composed of undulating cliffs. So to erect the mill it was first necessary to build a bridge across one end of the lake to the one level building site on the opposite shore, and work was immediately begun. A large force of men with numerous teams were engaged and soon the driving of piles was going vigorously on. Pile after pile went down through the clear, blue water, planks were secured to them and after many months of ceaseless toil the great bridge spanning a mile of water was completed. The lumber for the mill was at once hauled and the huge building with its massive machinery was in a comparatively short time put in motion. Not only was the bridge used for the constant mill traffic for it soon became a favorite route for travelers going to and from Virginia City, and it was for years one of the best paying toll bridges in that region where toll roads and bridges, owing to the enormous sums expended in their construction, were the rule instead of the exception. In time, however, with the going down of the Ophir mine the bridge was used less and less, and as all unearned for possessions do, lost its once prosperous appearance."

Mrs. MAUD B. RODGERS, Menlo Park, Cal.

Many thanks to Robert Reynolds, of Asheville, N. C., for his pleasant letter. I am sorry not to be able to use the letter sent us by Frank Lyon Holden, but it is not just what we want on this page.

And now, although my lap is still full of letters from cousins in all parts of the country, my space is filled and I must reluctantly say good-by for another month.

AUNT MINERVA.

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THE CHILDREN OF THE SUN.

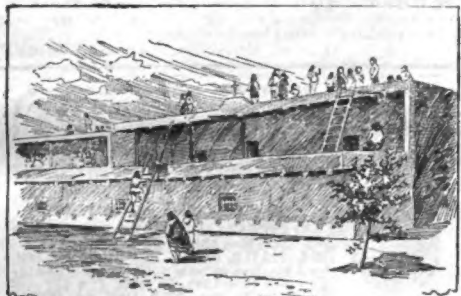
WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AND are they not well named, these people who dwell in the sky city of Acoma? In the far south-western part of our country are wonders and beauties little dreamed of by those who never leave the beaten tracks. In this category Acoma stands first. It is unique and one may travel the world around for more surpassing beauty. In a fertile valley, rich in crops and green with verdant grass, rises the steep and rugged table rock upon which the city of Acoma is built. The Pueblo Indians who inhabit it are the descendants of those ancient Queres, who built it more than five centuries ago. The mesa, with its cliff sides, rises three hundred and fifty-seven feet above the plain, with such steep sides that in many places the higher masses overhang. On all sides the beauty of these cliffs is remarkable. Broken and weathered into strange shapes, sometimes like huge towers and again like bridges spanning mystic depths, these masses of rock loom up in the distance like mysterious beasts from another world. Upon a nearer approach one may see the winding trail leading from the plain to the mesa. In this ladder of rock the feet of generations have worn deep footprints and one thinks, not without admiration, of the thousands of feet which have toiled laboriously over these steps, carrying every particle of the stone, the adobe and the wood which has built the city.

The mesa covers about seventy acres and its top is about seven thousand feet above the sea. It is in two parts, connected by a narrow isthmus so that its shape is something like that of a pair of spectacles. On the southern end of this skyward island is a vast reservoir of cool water, from which the people obtain their drinking water, but there are no dwellings here and the water is carried in great jars on the heads of the women.

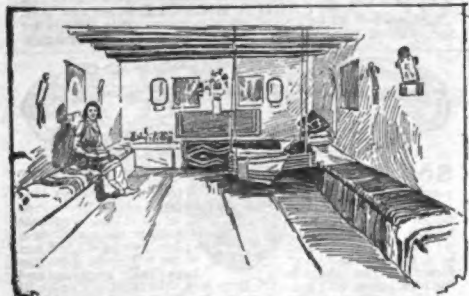
As one looks upon the terraced houses and the church, whose tower rises sixty feet above



TYPE OF HOUSE.

his head, his wonder at the patience of this people increases almost to incredulity. As he looks at the massive timbers of the church and hears that they were all brought from the mountains twenty miles away, he learns a lesson which years of civilization cannot teach him. The houses are built in long rows or in a rectangle. They are usually three stories high with a straight wall on the outside and terraces toward the yard in front. Usually there are no doors on the lower floor but, climbing a ladder, one may descend through a trap door from the roof. Then back a little on this same roof, are the openings to the second story homes and again ascending by quaint little stairs cut in the wall one comes to the third story. There are no interior connections between the houses and both doors and windows are very small. It is a most enticing occupation that of wandering about the housetops, descending the rude stairs and coming suddenly upon some one's front door just under your feet. The interiors are simple in the extreme. The walls are hung with blankets and trophies of the hunt, under which are long benches covered with the mattresses which are laid upon the floor at night for a bed. In one corner is a fireplace, above which are a row of jars containing fresh water from the reservoir.

The people of Acoma are good Catholics while they are in church but everywhere else they



INTERIOR—PUEBLO INDIAN HOUSE.

are pagans. Here and there one comes across the signs of paganism which these Indians have never pretended to abolish. There are the sacred rooms in which are performed rites and ceremonies which may be witnessed only by the great men of the nation. All about are mysterious symbols, sticks, bunches of sacred grass, or a figure, statueque, standing upon the housetop as the sun sets. The stranger cares not to meddle with these things which belong not to him, and woe to him if his curiosity triumphs! After the body of a departed soul is laid at rest in the churchyard with all the pomp of the Catholic service, one may see the funeral procession pass again to the house of sorrow and carry forth all that was dear to the one who has gone, his blankets, his ornaments, his clothes, and these, broken and torn, are burned, that they may follow their owner

to his new home. It is a strange mingling of religion.

The people of Acoma are shepherds and tillers of the soil. The fertile valley below them has been secured to them by a settlement from the United States government. It is some twelve miles long and five wide and contains excellent land for raising corn and vegetables, while the grassy patches are dotted with herds of horses and cattle and sheep. The Pueblo is a gentleman farmer, usually employing the Navajo Indian to do the menial part of his farming, while he employs his time in superintending his property or improving it. Irrigation is the great lesson which these Indians have taught to the white man and no lesson is of more importance in that arid region of deserts.

Physically the Pueblo is superior to most races of our day. He is tall, robust and well built, with a face which shows superiority of intellect. The women are often handsome with neck and shoulders which might make any woman envious. Their dress is a loose, hanging robe of cotton or wool and for festivals their ornaments of silver make a gorgeous setting to a fine figure. These people are extremely fond of fun and of stories. Many of their folk stories are full of pathos and beauty and their songs would rival many of our modern musical attempts.

The Pueblos are a peace-loving people, but it was not always so. Long ago, as their fort-like houses attest, a sentinel was needed on every housetop and the ladders of rock were often red with blood. Their worst enemies were of course the Spaniards but in the course of time they became their best friends and taught the Indians many lessons which have helped them to live more comfortably. Now for hundreds of years peace has reigned and it is likely to be for hundreds of years to come. There, upon that wonderful island rising towards the sky, live these simple people, unknown almost, to most of the civilized world. There, amid that wonder of peaks and crags and balanced rocks, of undreamed of caves and arches, live this race of nature lovers, high up in the blue, clear air of an almost tropic climate. The traveler who sees this people in their home witnesses a scene which rivals in beauty and in picturesqueness any scene of Egypt or the far East.

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PROF. WELTMER.

T. T. Rodes, of Paris, Mo., the Prosecuting Attorney for Monroe County, suffered for years from Sciatic Rheumatism, tried everything but was almost instantly cured through Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. Mr. Rodes has recently won fame as the attorney in the celebrated Jester case. Mrs. C. R. Graham of Boise City, Iowa, was afflicted for nine years with rheumatism; she could not walk without crutches or lift her hands to her head; she paid out \$3,000 with doctors before coming to Nevada; she now proclaims herself cured and a happy woman, through Weltmerism. Mrs. D. H. Allen, of Aurora Springs, Mo., was in a hopeless condition, as she suffered from consumption in its worst form; she could not sleep without the aid of morphine; tried everything without relief; fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. D. E. Alford, of Rubens, Jewell Co., Kans., suffered for three years with Kidney and Stomach troubles; tried the best medical authorities, but was told that his case was hopeless; took Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment and in the three days was cured. Mrs. Jennie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton; after taking gallons of obnoxious medicines, without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than

thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds. Mr. G. W. Hightower, Tiff City, Mo., was a total wreck; suffered many years with stomach, liver and kindred troubles; tried everything without relief; fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method. Mrs. M. M. Walker, Pocat, W. Va., suffered with eczema, indigestion and other troubles; dozens of doctors failed to give any relief; she was permanently restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method in two months. By writing Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., you will receive free of charge, The Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated magazine, and a long list of the most remarkable cures ever made.

Teaches His Method to Others.

The method of Magnetic Healing (Weltmerism) while a mysterious force, is at the same time a natural one, it is a power lying dormant in every human being brought into the world, and only needs to be brought to the surface. Prof. S. A. Weltmer in an interview stated, that any one who wished could learn this grand profession and anyone who learns it can practice it. This has been abundantly proven by the many students of the American School of Magnetic Healing, of which Prof. S. A. Weltmer is President and Prof. J. H. Kelly Secretary for students of this school. Prof. S. A. Weltmer is very anxious to have others take up his noble profession and assist him in his grand work, for his method of healing has now become so famous that he must call upon others to assist him; he will, therefore, teach the method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism, to any man or woman who will write him. He will teach them by mail or personal instructions. He makes the statement that a student becomes as efficient in the curing power, as a himself in ten days' time. Any one who wishes to take advantage of this grand offer and become possessed of not only the grandest, but at the same time the best paying profession of the age, can do so by addressing Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y, Nevada, Mo. who will send you full instructions free of charge.



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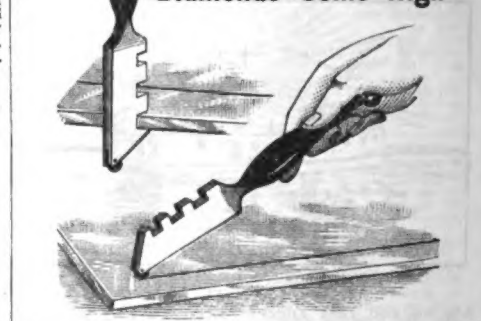


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CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

It is now the "between season"—"twixt hay and grass"—so to speak in the bicycling world. It is not exactly easy to foretell what will be most popular the coming season.

Perhaps the most remarkable of the season's features is the increase in the number of juvenile wheels in use. Only a few years ago a child of six or seven on a bicycle was a novelty. To-day there are hundreds of them in the cities. The little riders are seen mostly in the streets where they live, coursing up and down on the asphalt, doing "stunts" or playing games a wheel. The parks also attract them in large numbers. Dealers say that the demand for juvenile wheels the past year is almost double that of 1898. The prominent makers have turned out a fine wheel for the youngsters. The machines are strong and durable. They have to be made strong, for curb-stones and piles of debris have no terrors for the average youngster a wheel.

Money in large amounts is being expended for an ideal motor, which can be applied to automobiles and launches and the bicycle, tandem and tri-cycle. The traveling public and the sporting world at large, are much interested in the question, and the mechanical experts and inventors are kept busy. The advocates of electricity for automobiles and launches say that they have made interesting experiments the past year, while others who prefer naphtha and kerosene make claims which they profess to be able to demonstrate when occasion requires.

Certain experiments have been made with gasoline and kerosene about which some astonishing announcements are made. It is the intention of the persons interested to make engines for automobiles, launches, bicycles and tri-cycles which will use either gasoline or kerosene, and the assertion is made that the engines will be small, yet do the work of engines double or triple their size. A man prominent in the cycling world has been experimenting with one of the kerosene engines in a small launch, and he says that the work done has been entirely satisfactory. He says that one of the engines placed in a carriage will not only take up little space, but when charged with kerosene will push two hundred miles under ordinary conditions, without having to be recharged. The engine in question is about thirty inches long, eight by eight inches, and has a flywheel from sixteen to eighteen inches in diameter. The machine is of about nine horse-power.

Experiments have been made with the idea of perfecting an engine not much larger than a cigar box to be attached to a bicycle or tri-cycle. It is the intention to make the little machine compact, strong and at the same time powerful. For the bicycle it will weigh only a few pounds, and it is intended to be used when the rider encounters a steep hill or when the wheelman is returning from a long journey and is pretty well fagged out. The little machine will have from one-half to one horse-

power.

No doubt the average dweller of the plains would find climbing of the everlasting hills an extreme hardship at first, and there is also no doubt that the wheelman whose riding is necessarily mostly composed of alternate climbing and coasting would find unchanging levels monotonous and perhaps dreary. It is a point to be noted that the rough riding of the hill regions does not appear to be harder on one's physique than continuous work on the level. An all day's ride without grades calls for unremitting moderate exertion, while among the hills, although much harder pedaling is called for, there are also long coasts which are not only restful, but exhilarating; and if occasional walking is necessary it is not at all bad from the doctor's point of view.

An artistic bicycle rack is a thing long desired by suburban and country residents. A new one just meets the requirements. The post is light yet stout, the holders and springs are of extra length and the anchors have a firm purchase against the soil in which they are imbedded. There is no need of digging up or disturbing the sand. It is noticeable that most bicycle improvements are now artistic. Bicycle adjustable handle bars are practically universal. Never before have so many or such good bars been submitted to riders. With neat designs and having practical utility behind them very little is to be desired. A number of bicycle makers use bars of their own design, while the increase in the number of handle bar makers who supply the trade is large.

The notion that bicycling is losing favor among the masses is all nonsense. The record of sales for 1899 is an impressive negative to any such inference. It is true, however, that the grown up learners are less conspicuous than formerly. Perhaps the simple, obvious reason is analogous to the cause of the inferiority of black sheep to white sheep as producers of wool—there are not so many of them. Most of the adults know how to ride, and it has come to pass that the ranks of wheelmen are recruited mainly from the boys and girls of to-day.

The costliest bicycle in the world was finished at a gun factory in Vienna. It cost 500,000 gulden, which is a little more than \$275,000. The owner is a rich South African diamond king and mine owner, who presented the machine to his wife on her birthday. The frame alone cost 1800 gulden, and at the last Vienna exposition it was admired by thousands. This South African nabob was so struck with the exquisite beauty of the wheel that he bought it and had it inlaid with precious stones and diamonds on every possible part.

The most important parts of a machine, from a constant rider's point of view, are the bearings of the front and driving wheels and an easy running chain. Should either become clogged with dirt or grease, the whole ease of running is lost at once, and riding instead of becoming an enjoyment, degenerates into hard work—work, too, by which no useful purpose is served. When the bearings and chains are clean, a few drops of oil, not a quantity, are all that is required every few days, once a week being generally frequent enough, unless the owner is a rider who covers his thirty or forty miles a day.

It is the legal duty of every user of the highway to exercise reasonable care in every act the consequence of which may involve the safety of the persons or the property of others. Failure to perform this duty constitutes negligence.

It is said that Thomas Willson, a Canadian electrician, was in 1892 the first man to make carbide by a method applicable commercially.

A curious case of loss of memory has been recorded. A wheelman was found lying on the ground, bleeding from a wound in his head, but could not recollect in the least how it happened.

PAUL JONES' FLAG.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

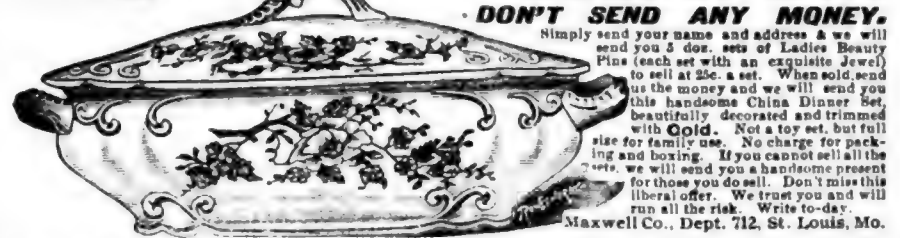
THE first flag of our country, the flag carried by John Paul Jones on his ship the Bon Homme Richard, is still carefully preserved in a glass case in the National Museum in Washington, D. C., and is an object of pride as well as curiosity to the crowds which daily throng the halls of the Museum.

This flag was made in Philadelphia in 1777 by the Misses Mary and Sarah Austin, under the direct supervision of George Washington and Captain John Brown. It is of English bunting, two and one half yards long by

one yard in width, is sewed with flax thread, and contains twelve stars arranged in four horizontal lines of three stars each, on a field of blue. There are thirteen stripes, alternately red and white. When the flag was completed it was presented to Paul Jones, who placed it on a small vessel called the Delaware, and sailed up and down the Schuylkill river to display the flag in this way to the thousands of Philadelphians who had gathered on the banks of the river to see it, and who cheered wildly and enthusiastically as it passed them fluttering from the masthead.

When Paul Jones started on his privateering trip in the Bon Homme Richard, he carried this flag floating from the masthead of his ship.

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During his famous fight with the British war vessel, Serapis, in the British Channel off Flamborough Head, the flag was shot away and carried overboard, but Lieut. Stafford jumped into the sea, recovered it, and succeeded in regaining the ship with it. Not content with this act of daring he insisted upon climbing the rigging with it in his hand and again nailing it to the masthead, where it flaunted defiance to the enemy and waved joyfully when, at the close of the terrible engagement, the commander of the Serapis tendered his surrender and his sword to John Paul Jones.

A NEW discovery in the use of liquid air as a medicine and anesthetic. It is claimed that it is a specific in the treatment of shingles, facial neuralgia, sciatica, and kindred diseases, and is also very helpful in the case of boils, abscesses, carbuncles, erysipelas, etc. As an anesthetic it is invaluable, as it produces local freezing of the tissues and so prevents flow of blood in surgical operations and thus gives clean work.

AND now the authorities are down on the use of explosives for Fourth of July, and it looks as if the time were coming in the near future when that great day will prove as mild and harmless, as still and noiseless as any other of the three hundred and sixty-five that go to make up the year. Cannon crackers are already tabooed in the large cities, and even the common cracker has met a like fate in some of them. And now the terrible mortality among the boys of New York from lockjaw immediately after the "Fourth", has sealed the fate of the toy pistol.

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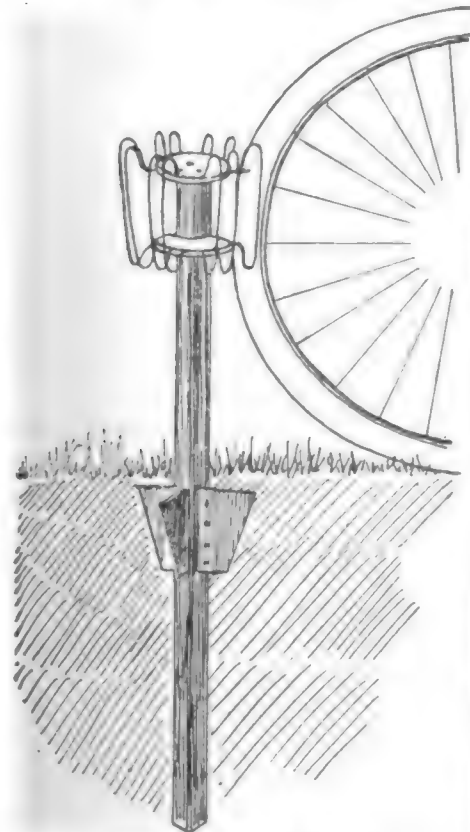
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power and kerosene will be the motor force. It is said that the little engine, in addition, will be noiseless. Its power will be equal to four or five men. The engines to be used in the automobiles and launches will be larger and more powerful.

It used to be said that American bicycle riders knew little of hill climbing except as a sought-for pastime. The statement may have been true once, but it no longer holds good. The homes and haunts of wheelmen are not in these days closely limited to city and suburban districts. Thousands of riders are now to be found in the rugged, semi-mountainous regions of New England, among the foothills of the Rocky, Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains, and, indeed, in all parts of this country, without special regard to topographical features.

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It looks as though the twentieth century would be woman's century in more ways than one. The nineteenth century saw such mighty advances along the lines of the rights of woman that it would be no great innovation did women actually use the mythical privilege of Leap Year. The twentieth century will contain twenty-four Leap Years. The first occurs in 1904 and then regularly every four years. Twenty-four reminders that she may take advantage of tradition may convince the most conservative that a change is desirable in the old saying, "Man proposes."

Hamlet is not alone in his discovery that his occupation was gone. New inventions are constantly forcing people into other occupations as well as adding new ones to the list. It is the same with amusements. What has become of the roller skate experts of a decade ago? We can all recall their astonishing exhibitions of skill but they have skated into the sea of oblivion that swallows so many amusements. The latest victims are the bicycle instructors. Two years ago there were hundreds of them in the country. They received good prices for instruction and reaped a bountiful harvest. Now it seems that every one who wished to learn to ride has done so and the bicycle instructors have sought other occupation. The rage for golf has given employment to hundreds of half-grown youngsters who trudge behind the players with the bag of clubs. They have even grown so familiar with the honors and duties of their situation as to go "on strike" recently at a fashionable club with demands for a higher price per hour. It is rather an amusing study of the rise and decrease of amusements.

There is one saint at whose shrine both saints and sinners bow—Saint Valentine. His devotees belong to no age and no country for love is a sentiment found wherever human nature manifests itself and Saint Valentine is its patron saint. There are many quaint and curious customs associated with the day but they are but forms of devotion to the little blind god in whose services Saint Valentine gained his rank. The careless modern pays his tribute no less than did the old time gallant. Our expressions of sentiment are probably more expensive than those of an earlier day, for love is a luxury in this age. Violets in silver bowls, rare orchids in ivory holders or jewel studded hearts express modern sentiment as verses encircled with elaborate paper cut work expressed that of a bygone age. The fact remains that in spite of the cynics, in spite of the materialists, Saint Valentine is worshipped to-day no less sincerely than he was in the past, for he represents a sentiment older than even human nature—the sentiment of love.

It is safe to say that the person who has followed the exciting events of the past year has added largely to his knowledge of geography. We have been interested in events in Samoa, the Hawaiian Islands, Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines. Many of these names did not mean even a place on a map at first, but from the atlas we have proceeded to books of travel, history and any other means that can make these places real to us. It is just as true that the Boer war has increased interest in South Africa. The whole civilized world has been surprised at the English rebuffs and correspondingly interested in literature that will throw light on the South African problem. Among the books most in demand at the libraries is to be found the following comprehensive list. The most authoritative books are Bryce's

"Impressions of South Africa," Kettle's "Partition of South Africa," Theal's extensive "History of South Africa," Schreiner's "South African Question," and Stanley's "Through South Africa." Thompson's "Rhodesia" and Boon's "History of the Orange State" are good special books. "Oom Paul's People" by Hillegas, and Slatham's "Paul Kruger" are devoted especially to the Boers and their leader. Students of diplomacy have been watching Asia for the past ten years with the feeling that it was upon that continent that England would be called upon to make her struggle for supremacy. Now it seems that the Dark Continent is the one that must throw light upon England's future place as a great power.

The majority of people allowed their sympathies rather than their intellect to determine their partisanship in the Boer war. Without regard to the history of the relations of the Boer Republic with England or of the moral principles involved on either side they felt sympathy with what they considered the weaker nation. The British Empire against one small Dutch state was the feature of the case that appealed to a large majority of people. An empire covering one-fourth of the entire land surface of the globe against a nation small in territory, in wealth, in population. To say that the British reverses surprised the world is but a mild statement of a startling fact. The statement has been made that only the rebuffs of England at the time she lost her American colonies can compare with the present situation. The comparison is not fair, as England during our Revolution was involved in a great continental war and had arrayed against her France, Spain, and Holland with a threatening coalition of the Northern powers, whereas at present she has only the Boer Republic to conquer. There are other causes. First of all, England's great fighting strength is in her navy, not her army. She owns one-half of all the shipping of the world but her standing army is one of the smallest. The English Channel has separated England from the continent and prevented the necessity of great standing armies. England's army has not in recent years been called to oppose any but half civilized people armed with inferior weapons. The Boers have mustered 60,000 men, more than double the number it was estimated they could place in the field. They have all the advantage of positions. A celebrated general once said "position is nine parts of the battle." The English do not possess accurate maps of the country and have placed but 80,000 men in the field. The odds so far are vastly in favor of the Boers and they have taken all advantage of the situation. The ultimate outcome is inevitable unless a general European war is precipitated—the English must win but it is hardly such a case of power against weakness as was at first supposed.

February brings its reminder of two great typical Americans—Washington and Lincoln. February the twelfth and February the twenty-second are days whose observance as holidays typifies the great respect, veneration and love of all patriotic Americans for the memories of the men who founded and preserved our union. In all the circumstance of their outward life they were as far apart as the poles. Washington the patrician, the autocrat, and Lincoln the plain man from the ranks of the plain people. The one, courtly, dignified, reserved; the other uncouth, homely and unpretentious. Yet their names are linked in history and their deeds are written together. Many people find a pleasing mental diversion in discussing the question of what Lincoln or Washington would say of the present policy of our Government—and always with the implication that they would disapprove of our present measures in the Philippines. To make such a question a means of asserting such a conclusion is to show an entire ignorance of the public and private expressions of both Washington and Lincoln. Neither men showed inclination to precipitate strife but neither showed any hesitation as to the outcome. Loyalty to the government was the key note of both great lives. There were two sides to the moral questions that led to the Revolution and to the Civil War. The argument was not all just on the side of the American colonies or on the side of the North. But when actual war came their argument ceased and the question was simply one of loyal devotion to the nation. Washington believed the Declaration of Independence to be ill advised; Lincoln was not an abolitionist until it was forced upon him as a war measure. Two of the greatest measures of these wars were not in the minds of the great leaders at the commencement of the struggle. The one dominant idea that was in their minds was the one of loyal devotion to their country. For this the nation honors their natal days. The question "What would Washington or Lincoln do at this stage of our history?" is one that can be plainly answered by all students of the lives of these great Americans. They would be loyal to the government, first, last and all the time.

Cornell University has a new course known as a "Course in Forestry." It is the only college in the United States that is giving scientific attention to a matter that so deeply concerns the welfare of the people. Our forests are rapidly disappearing and the effect of this wholesale destruction of trees can not fail to be harmful in more ways than one. Aside from the immediate commercial effect of the lessening of timber production is the no less important result of the change in climatic conditions produced by a small forest area. Cornell has thirty thousand acres in the Adirondack Mountains secured as a forest preserve. Over one million small trees of different varieties have been planted on this land. The study of their growth will give students a practical knowledge of the trees best fitted to varied conditions of soil exposure, moisture and the like. There is little general knowledge on this subject. It has been truly said that he who plants a tree plants a hope. Many more trees would be planted if people understood the variety of tree best suited to certain soils and to certain conditions. One of the most pleasing features of European countries is the excellent system of roads bordered by miles and miles of trees. This feature is sometimes seen here and the tree shaded road makes driving a delight. With a proper stimulation of interest in tree planting and tree culture we might easily rival

the great roadways of Europe as far as beauty is concerned. One of the most hopeful signs in municipal and village affairs is the appointment of tree committees. Their business is to collect information on the subject of tree planting and to recommend the planting of trees in certain places. The evergreens and the deciduous trees have individual elements of beauty and fitness. Canada has the leaf of the rock maple as her emblem, but the northern section of the United States could claim this beautiful tree with justice. In its October glory it appeals for all trees by showing the radiant beauty of one. The study in schools of tree growth and structure under the name of Nature Study cannot fail to awaken an intelligent interest in these monarchs of the forest. Any and all means that awaken an interest in trees from the standpoint of beauty should be encouraged and commended. The people have too long looked at trees through eyes trained to see "lumber" and that only.

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187	Austrian Song. Op. 69. Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive. Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands. Strassburg
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes. Strauss
65	Bells of Cornville. Potpourri. Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes. Wulsh
221	Bluebird Echo Polka. Morrison
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139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription. Sluck
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153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands. Muller
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9	Our Little Ames. Waltz. Greppore
197	Overshoe Waltz. Durkee
9	Please Do Waltz. Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe). Brunner
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March. Blake
143	Richmond March—Two-step. Masud
125	Rustling Leaves. Idylle. Schmitz
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische. Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-step. Masud
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription. List
181	Shanty Waltz. Variations. Wynan
31	Smith's (General) March. Martin
31	Song of the Voyager. Padereewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1886 K. T. Parade. Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz. Simons
181	Starry Waltz. Imitation of Nature. Keefe
109	Starry Waltz. Keefe
109	Sultan's Band March. Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription. Blake
115	Tornado Galop. Arbuckle
103	Triflet's Grand March. Op. 102. Wadel
223	Twilight in the Snow. Song without words. Wagner
13	Under the Double Eagle March. Ludovic
129	Venetian Waltz. Allen
205	Village Parade Quickstep. Cook
7	Visions of Light. Waltz. Cook
293	Warblings in Love. Richman
63	Waves of the Ocean March. Blake
59	Wedding March. Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem. Glose
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes. Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz. Bragg
No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.
236	Across the Bridge. Le Brun
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten. Winter
140	Beaumont. From Cavalleria Rusticana. Mascagni
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet. Glover
238	Bells of Seville. H. Jude
162	Ben Bolt, of "Tribby" fame. Kneass
226	Blue Eyes. Elton
246	Boys' Day. Chorus. Fritz
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow. Caruso
192	Can You Swearheart, Keep a Secret? Estabrooke
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132	Christmas Carol. Turner
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168	Cook's Breach of Promise. Cake walk. Blake
92	Cow Bells. The. Boyhood's Recollection. Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray. Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Glad to See You. Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Hooper
50	Easter Eve. Sacred. Gounod
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19	E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic. Elliott
72	Ellaline. Waltz song. Belts
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198	Heart of My Heart. Robinson
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188	In the Starlight. Duet. Glover
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196	Killamey. Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye. Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine. Keil
164	Laurel and Hardy. Duet. Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird. Estabrooke
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet. Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door. Danks
98	Lost Child, The. Sullivan
108	Lottie Bell. Gilbert
140	Love Ever Faithful. Buchanan
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer. Cullen
25	Lullaby. Do you think of me now? Estabrooke
234	Margaretta. Laffie
112	Maria's Sleeping in de Churchyard. Keeler
230	My Mother's Prayer. Allen
30	Mission of a Rose. The. Song. Cohen
52	Mother's Cry. A. (Salvation Army). Advance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door. Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet. Helmud
232	Must the Sweet Life that binds. Estabrooke
146	My Home by the Old Mill. O'Hara
110	My Little Lost Irene. Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home. Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain. Dinmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber). Foster
60	Optional. Russell
102	Old Sexton. The. Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River. Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad. Robinson
160	Outcast. An. Character Song. Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones. Seely
100	Pictures of My Mother. The. Seely
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic. Cooke
58	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance. Weiler
136	Request. Sacred. Granger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep. Knight
142	Rosemond. Chambers
60	See Those Living Pictures. Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again? Advance
184	She Sleeps among the Daisies. Dinmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening. Dinmore
60	St. George. Seely
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive. Hallah
10	Sweetest Song. The. Denza
43	Sweet Long Ago. The. Estabrooke
37	That Word was Hope. Waltz song. Nutting
113	Twilight in the Clouds. Seely
206	There's Sure to be a Way. Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother. Cohen
118	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading. Estabrooke
108	Tread softly the Angels are calling. Turner
38	True to the Last. Adams
64	Vicar of Bray. The. Old English Song. Seely
62	Your Mother's Love for You. Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet. Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again. Seely
86	When Winter Days Have Gone. Trayne
186	Whistling Woe. The. Comic. Jandani
122	Why am I Ever Watching. de Landrie
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade. Barker

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ROSALIE, MY ROSALIE.

BALLAD WITH WALTZ REFRAIN.

WORDS BY FRANK HUMPHREYS.

MUSIC BY ARTHUR M. COHEN.

Moderato.

INTRODUCTION.

by the riv - er shore, There lives a bright-eyed las - sie, The girl that I a - dore. She has a wealth of
hid her blush - ing face. And then I gen - tly clasped her form, In Love's own sweet em - brace. The beat - ing of her

gold - en hair, And such a win - ning smile; And I am sure her ten - der heart Is quite de - void of guile.
gen - tle heart, Told me that mine she'd be; And now I'm all to her, and she Is all the world to me.

REFRAIN.
Tempo di Valse.

Ro - sa - lie, my Ro - sa - lie, You are the one I love; . . . If you will be my bride, I'll be true as the stars a - bove; . . . There's

noth - ing you could ask of me, That I'd not do for you; . . . And when you mar - ry me, my love, You'll find me kind and true.

D.S.

D.S.

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V. H. GILSON COMPANY, MUSIC TYPOGRAPHERS, BOSTON, U. S. A.

A NEW WALTZ SONG.

The above beautiful waltz refrain song, My Rosalie, is one of those prettily sentimental songs with the waltz time which proved so very popular just before the advent of the "coon" and "rag-time" music which have held sway for some months past. The present one was submitted to the Musical Editor of COMFORT and if it shall prove half as pleasing to others as it did to him it will indeed be a most popular piece. We are certain that it will be appreciated both by the musical and by ordinary listeners, for besides the beauty and excellence of the music itself, the sentiment of the poetry is admirable and such as will meet the popular taste. In the selection of music and songs for publication in COMFORT, it is always the intention of the paper to have only the best and what will appeal to the taste of the greater number. While no one piece will satisfy every hearer, we know that the great majority in every case has been simply satisfied with the beauty of our musical numbers.

Nothing is more discouraging at a party or any kind of company than to have some singer or player attempt to interest those present by bringing out a lot of time-worn pieces that bore every hearer. There is no excuse for this for every singer and player by taking advantage of COMFORT's wonderful music offer found on another page, can at a trifling cost obtain the very latest and best pieces both in vocal and instrumental music. It is positively the

same kind of music as is charged for by storemen at any rate from 35 to 75 cents and even more.

THE WRITER OF A SONG.

Only a short time ago the papers announced the death of Rev. Samuel F. Smith D. D., who is known to fame as the author of one of our National hymns, America. Dr. Smith however should be known as more than the author of that one hymn as he had a very eventful and busy life. He was a man of great education and had mastered several languages and was so skilled that he translated several books at different times. Fond of writing he contributed to a prolific degree to missionary and religious papers, while engaged in the heavier work of writing and editing books on similar subjects. During over forty years he was pastor in New England churches and constantly preached and traveled as a minister of the gospel.

At college he was a member of the famous class in Harvard in which graduated Holmes, Freeman Clarke and many other noted men. Here and for his lifetime he was intimate with Longfellow, Emerson and Whittier.

He held his strength remarkably to the end and was as vigorous both in body and mind as could have possibly been expected at a very advanced age. When the Endeavor Convention was in Boston he had reached the age of eighty-

seven and yet was able to read the original poem to the multitude assembled with such power that every syllable was heard easily in the most remote sections.

His home was in Newton Center and from the windows of his old-fashioned New England house were the temple hills of which he wrote, while below can be seen the rocks and rills and other touches of nature that abound in the song.

Although some critical people affect to deride both the merit and art of "America," and though even its friends admit defects, the fact remains that outside this one song, with the possible exception of "The Star Spangled Banner," we have no National song, and certainly nothing has been written which shows such sense of noble patriotism as so thrills the soul of the listener as this beautiful poem

"To him 'twas given to touch the string
That echoed in a nation's heart."

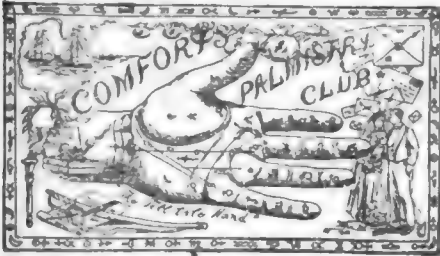
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The person who looks about and sees opportunities for economy and neglects them soon reaches a place where he has nothing to economize. To-day COMFORT offers every music lover a bargain in sheet music for a nominal cost, practically the cost of packing and mailing. Those who have bought high-cost music at stores look on this either as im-

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PLEASANT HOLIDAY GIFTS.

Many readers of COMFORT were able to give their friends holiday presents which both surprised and pleased the recipients. These were readers who have sent for some of the wonderful bargains in sheet music that are offered specially every month. They at once saw the worth and beauty of this music and knowing how much their friends would think of it sent a good list to them. The truth is that as soon as a person sees this regular half-dollar music and learns there is no catch or string to the price, he or she at once takes steps to secure the bargain. One can imagine how surprised one of the recipients, who fondly imagined she had received four or five dollars' worth of sheet music as a present, would have been to learn that the whole lot was procured at a cost only a trifle above the actual mailing expenses.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to be mailed.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Plaster is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

OWING to the fact that some parties do not fulfill all the conditions necessary to insure a prompt reading and a correct one, it is impossible for me to keep things straight at this end of the line. As stated in the September number I read the hand of "Despondent" for a certain person. Now she claims that it was not right. If she sent further impressions as she says marked "Anxiety" I cannot find them. Will she please send me new impressions and be careful that they are good ones, and mark on them the nom de plume "Anxiety" and her own full address at the same time, cutting out and attaching this paragraph? I will then give her as good a reading as I can and trust that it will be satisfactory, but she must comply with all these conditions.

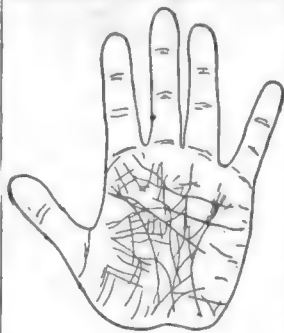
"M. E. J." writes the second time asking when her hands will appear in COMFORT. They were read in the last number, January 1900. To illustrate the length of time that it takes to read the hands after impressions are once sent, I will state that the impressions read this month were all received in November, which is the earliest possible time in which they can be done. Frequently it is six months before I get to them. I tell you in order that you may not get impatient.

The first of these fails to send any nom de plume with her impression. I will therefore take the initials of her name, which are "A. T." All the impressions she sends are from her right hand. There should have been one, at least, from the left in order that I might have it for comparison. It is a good hand, showing many fine influences rising from her life line and indicating wealth and honor in her old age.

Her health will always be somewhat delicate and I do not think she will live much beyond the age of fifty. She will have some strange experiences and many perplexities in life, but somehow everything will be for the best and she will rise superior to all her troubles. She is a person of wonderful tact and uncommon ability in many ways. She makes many friends, has a very high ideal in life and will live up to it, although she will be very much admired by the opposite sex and have many love affairs. She will be married twice and I think three times and she will have many journeys. She will have the courage of her convictions in all that she does and will dare to go ahead with any scheme which she believes to be for her own good. I can see wealth and fame in her hand, although from the age of forty onward she will have some complications of an unpleasant nature. Her second marriage will be to a man of fine reputation. Her hand is peculiar in some respects and shows that she will receive the opposition of both friends and enemies, especially between the age of twenty and thirty, but she has a wonderful amount of courage and will carry everything through to a successful ending.

"March Hare" is to be greatly admired for the excellent impressions which she sends. I wish all my readers would take as much pains to have them plain and distinct. These impressions show a person of much ability, but rather inclined to underrate herself, i. e., she does not dare to live up thoroughly to what she knows would be best for her. She is a person of a great deal of natural ability, of artistic temperament, fond of reading, music and fine pictures. She has a great deal of tact in managing other people and considerable will power, but at the same time she is easily influenced by those for whose judgment she has respect. There is a distinct star marked on the head line of the left hand which appears with less distinctness on the right. This would indicate a bad wound on the head if it were the other way and appeared stronger in the right than it does in the left, but as it is I judge that

she will be protected from



"MARCH HARE."

and she will need to guard her strength at that time. There are several lines ascending from her life line all of which point to good luck at the age indicated. She will not be likely to have many children. She will have two marriages, one at the age of twenty-five or thereabouts and the other after she is forty-five. She will have several journeys with pleasant endings and one of these, coming at the close of her life, will take her into foreign lands. On the whole her left hand is much poorer than her right and I think she will in main, have excellent luck and will make a wealthy marriage. She has occult faculties which if developed, will make her a good palmist or even clairvoyant reader.

"Treble" sends his hands without fixatif and they are not very badly rubbed, although they are somewhat. As I have often repeated in this column, it is impossible to send them through the mails without the use of fixatif so but what they will rub, as even the motion of shaking them about rubs off the smoke. His is an excellent hand showing an upright, straight forward character, which can be depended upon at all times.

He will make a splendid business man on this account and also because he has sufficient faith in himself and perseverance to carry out whatever seems best. He has a strong constitution and will be well up to a very old age with the exception of a time about the age of thirty to thirty-five when either a severe illness or an accident will befall him. He recovers from that and soon after has a streak of good luck. He will be nearly, if not quite, a hundred years old. He will marry not far from the age of thirty, will get an excellent wife, but he will outlive her. I do not think he will marry the second time. He will have several successful journeys in his life and will be much esteemed wherever he lives. His hand is an exceptionally good one all the way through. He will rise by his own efforts to fame and to a degree of wealth.

The others which I have on hand will have to be deferred until next month.

Digitus

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A GENEROUS OFFER!

George B. Wright Discovers a Cure for Lost Manhood and Sends it Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write For It.

Gratitude is one of the noblest impulses of the human heart, and in few instances has this fine quality been so conspicuously exemplified as in the case of George B. Wright, of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright is a merchant and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years. He now devotes his life to helping other men who suffer as he once suffered. Mr. Wright offers to send the medical prescription that effected a cure in his case to every reader of COMFORT who is suffering to-day as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge.

The following editorial by A. N. Tally, M. D., regarding Mr. Wright's prescription for lost manhood, appeared in the December 1899 issue of the *United States Health Reports*, published at Washington, D. C.:

We, as the highest American authority on all matters of Health, Sanitation and Hygiene, are constantly receiving letters of inquiry about a reliable cure for lost strength in men.

Therefore we have ordered an investigation to be made into the subject and our Medical Staff found there were many so-called cures on the market but that many were worthless and some actually harmful. Therefore when we came upon the prescription furnished free by George B. Wright, a merchant of Marshall, Michigan, we instituted a most thorough laboratory examination and found that its wonderful efficacy depended upon its being exactly compounded according to proper chemical requirements in order to establish the proper chemical actions and reactions in the human system and that it should especially, and above all, contain each and every ingredient named in the prescription, otherwise it would be quite inactive and worthless.

Properly mixed and containing everything called for in the prescription, its effect upon the nerve centers is truly wonderful and its nerve tonic properties easily surpassed all ordinary methods of medication.

Among the benefactors of the race may be mentioned the said George B. Wright, inasmuch that he gives this grand discovery free to all who write for it.

Taken according to directions it builds up the weak and restores to full size and vigor the nerve muscles. It brings hope and cheer and lifts up the discouraged man so that he once



G. B. WRIGHT.

more enjoys the beauties of nature and the pleasures of life. Failure in business and love surely falls upon him who is weakened physically and mentally and this sad condition is at once relieved and a new man made of him who uses this prescription.

Therefore, upon the highly favorable report of our Medical Staff we extend to George B. Wright's Prescription for Lost Manhood the full editorial and official endorsement of the United States Health Reports.

As certain as a wound leaves a scar, and as

sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no tell-tale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form—quack doctors—who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money, plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate these horrors of lost manhood except he who has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he who knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of George B. Wright, a music dealer and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical power go from him as the result of insidious disease, until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men, and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his 10 years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for his free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him little to do so, and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, Box 855, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

A NEW ENGLAND MINE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



DOES not expect to find mines in New England, and yet there is a mine far up among the Berkshire Hills in Western Massachusetts, which although it was discovered less than twenty years ago, has made its owner many times a millionaire. This mine is in the town of Rowe; but the village of five hundred inhabitants which has grown up around the mouth of the shaft is called Davis, after the name of the man who discovered the mine and owns it.

The ore which is dug out here is iron pyrites, more commonly known as "sulphur ore," because it contains a large per-

cent. of sulphur. To look at, it would seem to be a rock made up of dark gray sand and flakes of gold tightly glued together. One name for it is "fool's gold," because so many people have been deluded by its glitter into mining for gold where gold could never be found.

Sulphur ore is used for making sulphuric acid, for which the demand in this country has increased enormously during the last ten years, especially for use in making fertilizers. This is partly due to the lower price at which the acid can be made since it was found possible to make it from iron pyrites ore. Until this was known the acid was made from brimstone, all of which had to be imported. There is hardly a farmer in the whole United States, now, who is not indebted for a part of his success on the farm to the man who discovered how to use this ore.

When iron pyrites ore is pure it contains 53 per cent. of sulphur and 47 per cent. of iron, but it is rarely found pure. Most ore contains lead, zinc, copper and arsenic. The ore from the mine at Davis is more pure than that from many other places, and as it contains no arsenic makes a pure white acid, such as is made from brimstone. This is not only the only one of the kind in New England, but it is almost the only one of the kind in the United States. There are also mines in Canada and in other parts of the world. The owner of the mine at Davis also owns a similar mine in Spain.

No acid is made at Davis. The ore is sold and shipped all over the country to firms who manufacture it into acid to suit themselves. The acid is made by burning the ore in furnaces. As it is heated the sulphur passes off in fumes similar to those one smells when a match is lighted. These fumes are collected and subjected to a process which condenses the acid from them. If the fumes from a match are

allowed to strike a flower or a leaf they make the part of a plant lose its color and wither, so deadly are the effects of the fumes upon vegetation. In some places where great quantities of the ore are burned so much of this gas escapes that all the trees and plants for a considerable distance around are blighted and killed. As no ore is burned at Davis, though, this unfortunate effect does not follow there, and it would be hard to find a more beautiful place than this mining hamlet among the Green Mountains.

The story of the way in which the mine was discovered is interesting. For a great many years the farmers who have lived in Rowe have noticed that there were odd-looking rocks in some parts of the town, and people who have been there have seen specimens gathered as curiosities or for their mere beauty. In 1881 a New England man who was in New York City happened to see a piece of rock lying on the desk of Mr. H. J. Davis, a man who had been prospecting and mining in different parts of the country for several years. This man told Mr. Davis that he knew where there was a lot of rock like the piece on the desk. As a result of this conversation Mr. Davis came to Massachusetts with the man, and was guided by him to a place in the town of Rowe where, among the boulders washed clean by the waters of a brook flowing through a pasture was one rock which glittered in the sunlight with the particles which people call "fool's gold."

After Mr. Davis had seen this boulder he obtained permission from the man who owned the farm through which the brook ran, to dig down into the ground to see if he could find more, and if he did to blast out enough to load a car to be sent away as a sample. The report which came back from this carload was so favorable that a part of this man's farm was bought, and mining begun in good earnest. Since then several of the adjoining farms have been bought, and a village with schoolhouse, store, boarding house, tenement houses and several good residences, has been built.

The mine is now down to a depth of nearly a thousand feet. Its annual yield is about 60,000 tons of ore a year, which makes about a freight-train load for each working day. The ore is drilled and blasted, compressed air being used to work the drills. The ore comes to the surface in lumps about as big as a man's head, and is broken up by hand, the men who do this work using long-handled steel hammers. It is more profitable to have this work done by hand because the ore sells for the highest price when broken into pieces about the size of an egg. If broken by machinery too much of the ore is crushed. The advantage of having the ore in this size is that it can then be burned on an iron grate, through which the heat passes. All of the ore which is too small for this size, and so would fall between the bars of the grate, is sent to a mill called the "crusher," and ground to a powder about like coarse sand. This is burned on slabs made of fire-clay, but as the process is much more expensive than that of burning on grates, the fine ore cannot be sold for as much as the coarse.

The men who work in the mine are all Italians, and many of those who work on the surface are of the same nationality. The village of Davis is therefore a sort of "Little Italy," built up among the mountains of Massachusetts. Not very many of these men have

families, because most Italians do not plan to stay in this country only long enough to save two or three thousand dollars with which they intend to go back to Italy, and buy a farm on which they can settle down and live rich for all the rest of their lives. There are enough of the men who have families, though, so that there is a school in which nearly all of the twenty-five pupils are Italian children. When these children first begin to come to school it is rarely that any of them can talk a word of English. Think how odd the work of a teacher must be whose first task is to teach her pupils to talk the English language.

The men are steady and industrious, and very saving of their wages. The village is quiet for a mining settlement. The men drink large quantities of beer and liquor, which they send away and buy by the keg, but they never get quarrelsome and the long distance which they are removed from any city seems to have freed them from the unfavorable influence which crowding men together often seems to produce. They are a musical and pleasure-loving community, having grounds arranged for playing various out-door games, a band-stand and a queer artificial summer garden, made by setting up small trees and the branches of larger trees around a level wooden floor, on which they gather to dance, drink and eat in the shade of the trees which they have tied up to the frame around the floor. The entrance to this garden is through a long, neatly covered and shady arbor.

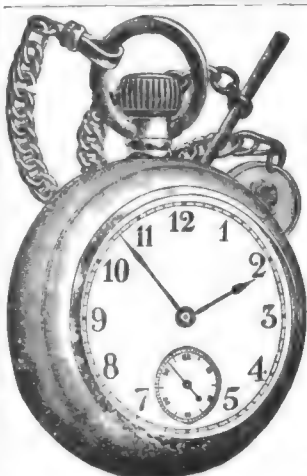
Davis is four miles from Charlemont, a station on the Fitchburg railroad, eight miles east of the Hoosac Tunnel. All of the ore has to be drawn to Charlemont to be loaded onto the cars. It takes twenty teams working all of the time, the year around, to draw the ore.

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Beautiful new designs, Lace borders, the most exquisite assortment of valentines we ever offered and the most for your money. Six for five cents. Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

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Read carefully. Don't miss this offer. Send \$5.00 (money order) for our popular New Songs, and receive free 5 jeweled Hat Pins and Charms. To Gentlemen Charm and Cuff Links. Splendid prizes for clubs. We do only a cash business. RANDALL PUBLISHING COMPANY, Station A, Boston.



WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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MUSIC IN THE AIR!

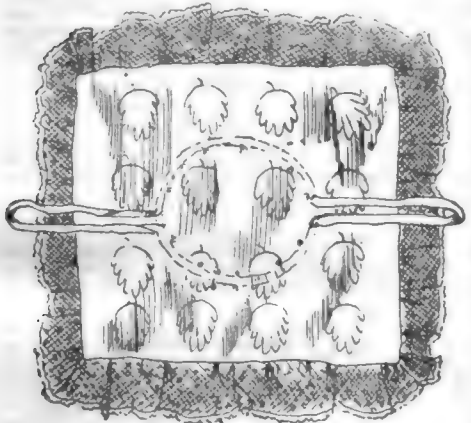
I'd leave my happy home for You; She was Bred in old Kentucky; My old New Hampshire Home; All I want is my Black Baby Back; Break the News to Mother; I don't like no Cheap Man; The Bowers is not the Same; On the Banks of the Wabash; I want my Lulu; Get Your Money's Worth; Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight; The Honolulu Dance; If they'd only fought with Razors in the War. Our new songbooks contain all the above songs also; many others. We will send sample song book with one piece sheet music and catalogue of 1600 songs for 10 cents. We will also send you a \$1.00 Due Bill which entitles you to \$1.00 worth of goods. Free from our list. Song Supply Co. 669 Dearborn St. Dept. F1, Chicago.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE question which confronts mothers of girls when they get into their teens, is the comparative value of the boarding school and the regular grammar and High school course. The aim of the average girl's education is to fit her for domestic life, and all things being equal, the girl with the broadest culture and the most accomplishments lives the fullest life and is in touch with the most people. If a girl associates with only one set of people, her growth will be in the same general direction as is theirs. With new surroundings, new instructors and new friends come new ideas, and a better knowledge of how people in different circles and under different atmospheres live, and this is a powerful mental stimulant. Often unsuspected talents manifest themselves which would never have received special thought under other conditions. There can be no doubt as to benefits of the boarding school from a mental standpoint. But the taking of a girl out of her home environment at this age, from fourteen to seventeen, is a risky thing to do, unless the girl is naturally self-reliant and has been well-trained by her mother. The great point in favor of this course, is the inevitable result which must come to a girl from being under strict discipline, for any disposition toward untidy habits is quickly nipped in the bud, and the girl who has to daily put up with untidy habits in her room-mate will not fall into these bad ways herself. There is no possible doubt as to the good



HANDKERCHIEF BAG, OPEN.

effect upon a girl who is in this way thrown upon her own resources so far as the daily care of her room, wardrobe, recreations etc., is concerned, and it is a remarkably good thing to let a girl get away from her mother's care in this direction, for a time, for mothers are prone to do all those little things for their daughters which should be left for them to do, after they get to be twelve years old, often forgetting that they have arrived at the age when they should take the responsibility of their own wardrobes and rooms, in mending and repairing their own clothes. Some sensible mothers have their daughters do the family mending every other week, at least, and this brings to them the knowledge of all kinds of patching and darning which is such a useful thing to be able to do. Unless there is a possibility of a college course for a girl, or a long course of travel to take her away from home and thus develop her, a girl who is sent away to boarding school between the ages of fourteen and eighteen is a much better equipped girl for entering society and meeting all grades of people as she will be obliged to do, than the one who has simply lived in her own home and seen little of people outside her own immediate neighborhood which comprises her school and church friends.

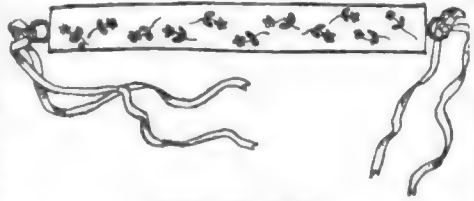
We came across, the other day, a bag for holding embroidery, and as it is easily made, and possibly a new idea to some of the readers of this department, we show two illustrations of it—one open, and the other closed.

The bag is made from a fancy silk handkerchief of rather large size, and the bags are more durable when made from dark colored ones, also prettier, as the contrast is stronger between the silk and the lace which is used on the edge. First sew all around, on the edge, some lace about two inches deep. This may be put on plain with fullness simply at the corners, or may be full all the way, making a ruffle, which adds to the dainty and dressy appearance of the bag. Cream or ecru lace is preferred. Then take a tuck, in a circle, about midway between the center and edges of the handkerchief, running through this tuck two pieces of narrow ribbon for a draw string, to come out at opposite sides, using ribbon to match some tint in the handkerchief. This is all there is to it, and yet it is very effective. May also be used as a bag for duster, to hang on a door knob, or on a chair back.

Our other illustration shows a carriage band. This is one of the new things in the shops and is very useful and dainty. For a baby carriage, of course, and particularly useful in the go-carts so much used now by children old

enough to sit up.

The band is made of ribbon two inches wide, and one-half yard is enough. Have stamped on one-half of this some sprays of forget-me-not—which seems to be the baby's flower—and embroider and press the same. Then cut a strip of white wadding, two inches wide and nine inches long and baste onto the wrong side of the embroidered part, folding over onto the wadding the other end of the ribbon. Sew the edges of the front and back part of ribbon together, also end, over and over. Have two brass rings about the size of a penny, and crochet them with silk the shade of that used in



CARRIAGE BAND.

the flowers in the embroidery. Sew one ring to each end of the bands. Then tie into the rings, one yard into each, some half inch ribbon of a shade to match rings, leaving the ends free. These ends, of course, tie into the arms of the carriage, and the baby is well fastened in, and her appearance is much improved by the use of the pretty band in place of the usual leather strap.

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25 Cents Pays for a Full Membership.

If you ever buy sheet music you really cannot afford not to join the Music Club. The objects of the Music Club are, 1st: In behalf of its members to furnish them with one of the latest songs or instrumental pieces each month without cost. 2d: In behalf of the music publishers, to place in the hands of club members the latest song or composition of real merit, which deserves popularity. 3d: In behalf of its promoters to realize a small profit from membership fees, and additional music sold to members at club prices.

Every one may not be aware that a great many copies of every popular song or composition are given away by the publishers before the piece becomes sufficiently popular and well known to command a ready sale. That this is a fact any candid publisher will readily admit. It is, however, very necessary that these advance copies shall be placed judiciously in the hands of people who will appreciate the real merit of the composition.

The promoters of the Music Club have guaranteed to the music publishers the high character of its members, and that new music placed in their hands will be intelligently considered and favorably mentioned where the actual merit of the piece warrants it. All subscribers to COMFORT—but no others—are eligible to membership in the Music Club, and become full members on the payment of the club fee of 25 cents, which also includes a subscription to COMFORT.

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\$500.00 IN GOLD FREE.

HERE is a chance to use your Brains and Win \$500.00 in Gold. We want you to try and arrange these 20 jumbled letters printed in the block square to the left which properly arranged will spell the names of 3 large cities in the World, three cities being in the United States, the other one being a Mexican City. In making the 3 names the letters can only be used as many times as they appear and no letter can be used which does not appear. After you have found the 3 correct names you will have used every letter in the 20 exactly as many times as it appears. If you cannot find the 3 correct names but only find 2, you will receive a special prize for your trouble worth \$1. If you answer this puzzle at once you will not be disappointed. Some one is going to win the money and if you try you may win it. It does not cost you any money to try. All we ask is that should you be a successful contestant and win a prize that you will secure for us one yearly subscriber to our Handsome Illustrated Monthly Magazine. This we can truthfully say is the very hardest puzzle ever advertised, so get out your Geography and look for these 3 cities. The correct names are only known to the President of this Company. The envelope containing the three names, sealed and deposited with a leading Bank in New York City, and will only be opened up the day after the contest closes, April 28th. This we believe is the only honest way of conducting a contest, as everyone has an equal chance. In case more than one person succeeds in finding the three correct names we will divide the money equally. In addition to the \$500.00 in gold we will give you an opportunity to win

\$5.00 A WEEK FOR LIFE FREE

WITHOUT ANY LABOR OR EXPENSE. We are going to give to some one who has entered this contest and who complies with the conditions as stated above an opportunity to win and secure from us without any labor or expense on their part \$5 every week during their natural life. We mean just what we say. If you are the lucky one, and we hope you are, for some one will get it, we will send the winner every week during their natural life \$5, or else \$250 every year in advance for life, whichever way they prefer. Do not throw this contest aside and say, Oh, phaw! I have answered puzzles before and never got anything, or else only secured a few cents for my trouble, for if you do this you will regret it as long as you live. Someone is going to win the money, and it may be you. No one can tell, anyway it does not cost you a cent, as we do not want any money from you. Are the prizes worth trying for? We think they are, for \$5 a week will keep one from the Poorhouse, and to those who have a small income, it will supply them with many a necessity which one has to do without in these hard times. Of course we are strangers to you, and you have no assurance except our word that we are financially able to carry out the promises we make. If you have the least doubt, we would be pleased to have you write to the Federal Trust Co., of Boston, one of the largest banking houses here, to whom we refer by permission of their honorable President. We are a responsible company, with a paid up capital of one hundred thousand dollars, composed of honorable and well known business men of Boston. We want to secure a large list of subscribers to our Magazine, and leave no stone unturned to accomplish by honest methods only, our object. Every one entering this contest will receive honest treatment, and you will have the same chance whether you live in California or Massachusetts. Distance makes no difference. After you have carefully arranged the twenty jumbled letters into the three cities which you think are right, send your answer to us at once, enclosing a two-cent stamp for reply and you will immediately receive an answer telling you whether you will be entitled to a prize, and also send you full particulars how you can win \$5 a week for life. Don't delay. Address

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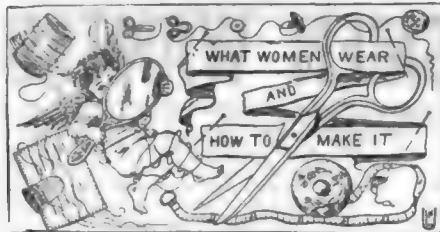
To introduce our new line of Quadruple Plated Silverware we will for 30 days send to each of our subscribers to SUNSHINE a beautiful gold lined silver dish free to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quality silverware. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than \$1.00 or \$1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of occasions, either on the table, or for side tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send \$2.50 for a year's subscription or will send both dishes at \$4.00. If you remit \$5.00 for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly, Don't delay but send at once. We can quote you wholesale rates on our new line of goods. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

IF all predictions come true we are to have a host of beautiful new things for Spring. First of all are the skirts; single-pleats, box-pleats, kilt pleats, accordeon pleats and every other sort of pleat ever known to man. The wise woman will conclude at once that it will be a difficult season for the home-dress-maker; for all these pleats are hard to lay and still harder to keep in shape. However, they are the latest cry and every blessed woman who can will have at least one skirt of this style. Habit back and fan-pleated back have entirely given over to the box-pleated back, as suggested in the sketch. The pleat graduates from the belt to the hem, and is often fancifully stitched or embroidered. It has proven a very becoming finish to the back of a skirt, emphasizing as it does the clinging custom.

While they are fresh in my mind I would like to tell you about some dreams of ball gowns to be worn at a smart New York function in the near future. One is blue, just like a glimpse of blue sky in the summer, hazy and soft; the long, trailing skirt is de chene, so soft the entire skirt could be drawn through the half-closed hand. Over this beautiful material is scattered creamy lace roses of quite large size, the edges of each outlined with a minute ruching of blue tulle. At the foot are billows of tulle and yellow lace of an open design matching the roses on the silk. A feature of this skirt are the pieces, back and front, which extend up over the waist, giving the effect of a Princess. What can be seen of the low bodice is composed of inch-wide straps of blue broadcloth set together with lace roses of a smaller size than those used on the skirt. A second perfect gown, is pink Liberty satin, and as it is intended for a slim figure, shirrings are used instead of pleats. The skirt has the outer part lifted at the back and caught into a group of shirrings giving a slightly draped effect. At the foot, over several flaring flounces of creamy net trimmed with rows of pink velvet ribbon is an applique of heavy white lace, the opening filled with ruchings of pink tulle. The tiny bodice made me think of a rose with its tiny shirrings alternate of tulle and satin. Shaded satin roses edge the shoulders, made to look very natural by means of drops of pearls looking like dew.

A broadcloth ball gown sounds most incongruous, and yet made over a silk dropskirt it is neither heavy nor cumbersome, and the clinging lines of the woolen fabric are most effective, revealing all the beauties of a good figure—producing in fact, a tailor-made evening girl. The question has been brought up frequently as to what constitutes the difference between a ball and a dinner gown. It is rather difficult to tell at first glance, for a large majority of the dinner gowns are quite elaborate enough to wear at a dance, although it may properly be very much plainer than a dancing frock. For instance, long sleeves are seen in most of the



Butterfly brooches and hair ornaments are quite the fad. They make charming bonnet pins to gleam in the heart of a big chiffon choux, to fasten the tulle ties of the dressy hat, or to glisten among the folds of the lace cravat. The loveliest of these butterflies are tinted and gemmed to suit one's special style of beauty. A butterfly made for an April maiden, is of pale enamel with rays of gold slanted across the wings, which are studded with diamonds.

Coral necklaces are much in vogue, and for the cotton shirt waists are sets of studs of coral to match. It is a dainty idea to follow the color in the waist; coral with pink, and turquoise with blue.

A novel idea in belts is shown by a well-known New York milliner. It is an arrangement of ribbon with pulleys and attachments at the back for holding the skirt in place without the use of pins. They have a tendency to make the waist appear longer, and by means of the pulleys the size certainly can be reduced considerably.

A feature of the spring tailor gown will be its trimming of taffeta bands, some several inches in width while the narrower bands will be more commonly used. Bands an inch wide are used to overlap all the seams in the smart little coats, and to outline the edge of the jacket as well as to trim the sleeves. Often the bands are stitched in rows with a color to match or with white, making a sharp contrast. Almost

like a bolt from the blue have sprung into our midst spots—large, small, medium—tumbling one over the other like the starry heavens, or placed at regular intervals wide apart. Light cloths are spotted with black velvet, as are satins and silks, while as for spotted velvets, they are legion. One lovely pattern was broken up by little lines of dashes; doubtless the idea was borrowed from a foulard, but expressed in black velvet on a delicate mastic cloth it was at once invested with a delightful element of novelty.

In making these spotted stuffs up the monotony is relieved by mixing with plain material, possibly in the guise of an underskirt and sleeves, for contrasting sleeves are rather catching onto popular favor again.

Only a little time ago we were convinced of



the beauty and suitability of the short French corset, and now there is another cry to which those of you who aim to be in the van of fashion will do well to listen seriously. This new corset owns for its chief feature, a perfectly straight busk, the waist, that is to say, directly in the front, being not in any way defined, and the cut over the hips is remarkably short, leaving full play there, while it seems to be a matter of choice altogether whether at the top they are quite low or only moderately so. I must not forget to tell you a few interesting details of the suspender. Under the new regime of the straight busk, this is clasped to the edge of the corset on both sides of the front, the straps fastened to the stockings, gaining the double end of supporting the hosiery and holding down the stomach.

Blouses and spencer waists are to have absolutely flat backs, neither pleats nor tucks, nor yoke, nor yet anything being permitted to break the monotony of the plain surface. It is only by diligent attention to these small details that we are granted the privilege of the loose waist. On new sleeves there is a distinct leaning toward tiny flat epaulettes. These are generally cut in one with the shoulder piece; then revers are generally double or rippled, and so lend a becoming breadth to the figure.

A quite novel epaulette had its dividing seam accentuated by tiny buttons and was very pretty and chic.

Speaking of buttons reminds me of another waist that owes its success to a yoke of velvet, ostensibly buttoned on to the under part of some soft woolen material, which was slightly eased. Small yokes, too, outlined by strapings, the mitred ends whereof are crossed and held with buttons are very effective, and again, a noteworthy feature will be contrasting colors of panne velvet with revers of the same. I am glad to see that the actual silk shirt waist, with linen collar and cuffs, is far in the past. Though simple silk shirts are worn they are not now considered at all smart unless accompanied by pretty lace turn-over collars and soft stock ties. So many people make the mistake of having a silk shirt too tight. When one is not comfortable there can be no beauty.

How many years ago were boleros invented, or, rather, introduced into our favor? Their decease has been prognosticated for a long time yet they flourish and abound as merrily as ever and are likely to be even more popular, with forms so varied that all requirements can be satisfied. Much stitching and braiding is to be seen, especially when collars and revers give opportunity for such decoration. But one thing is imperative, that the bolero or Eton are of the same material as the skirt, no different fabric or coloring are permissible. Facings of other materials, of course, are introduced, and cloth upon cloth, differing in color only, is a feature of tailor-built costumes of to-day, the costume in which the bolero plays such an important



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Everybody admires women and girls with clear, healthy, spotless complexions. They are attracted by pink cheeks and soft, velvety, delicate skin. Nothing destroys happiness and beauty like Freckles, Pimples, Blackheads, Yellow or Muddy Skin, Moth, Wrinkles, Red Nose or Face, Tan, Eruptions, Discolorations or Blemishes of any nature. They make both men and women homely and make them look old. All these afflictions are quickly and easily cured by DR. BOTOT'S COMPLEXION WAFERS. This is the most wonderful beautifier that was ever made. It is positively harmless to all, and contains not a single atom of Lead, Bismuth or Arsenic.

FOR GENTLEMEN AS WELL AS LADIES. These Wafers completely remove every eruption, blotch, discoloration and blemish on both Ladies and Gentlemen. They make the old look young. They beautify Face, Neck, Shoulders and Arms. They impart the delicate tints of girlhood and youth to the complexion. A woman cannot possibly be homely if she uses DR. BOTOT'S COMPLEXION WAFERS. She will be as fair as a rose, and wrinkles will not appear until she is far advanced in life. This may seem impossible to you, but it is the plain truth. The Wafers are not a cosmetic, remember, but a food for the skin. They make ladies of 40 look to be less than 30.

You Can Try Them Free.

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CAPITAL DRUG CO., Box 523 Augusta, Maine.

part. The smart little Eton sketched here has an oddity, inasmuch as it has a short point at the back while the fronts are no longer than the sides. It has a coat collar of velvet and revers rolling open to the edge of the jacket. The velvet applique is set on in girdle fashion, a form of garniture sure to be much in vogue.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

THE LATEST POPULAR SONGS.

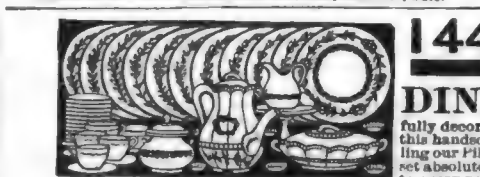
Cost in single copies at least 40 cents each; but we have a book of one hundred and forty-six popular songs, sentimental, pathetic and comic, with words and music complete which we will send to any friend who will send six cents to pay mailing expenses, and our illustrated catalogue of latest bargains. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

ASTHMA FREE.

If you suffer from any form of Asthma FREE. We want to send you free by mail, prepaid, a bottle of the famous Kola Plant Compound. It is Nature's Sure Botanic Cure for the disease, and we guarantee that it will forever stop all your suffering. We are sending out 50,000 bottles free by mail to sufferers, to prove the wonderful power of this New Discovery, and we will be pleased to send one to you. Send your name and address by postal card or letter. Address, THE KOLA IMPORTERS, CO., No. 1164 Broadway, New York.

\$5.00 CASH per 1000 paid to Distribute Circulars. Enclose 4 stamps. World Adv. Ass'n, Chicago.

CARDS Send in stamp the ELEGANT SAMPLE BOOK of all the FINEST and Latest Styles in Gold, Silver, Enamel, and other designs. Price, New Envelope Cards, etc. Greatest Quality Ever offered. UNION CARD CO., 250, Columbus, Ohio.



144 PIECE DINNER SET FREE

Introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion and torpid liver. If you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 144 piece dinner set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land & all who received the spoons & dinner set for selling our Pills are delighted. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, DEPT. M, 32 WEST 13th STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

The American Stamping Outfit

A choice collection of New and Seasonable Designs for Decorative Work.

The designs we give in this outfit cannot be duplicated in any art store for less than \$5. This is fact, not fiction. The Outfit contains all the following designs:

- 1 Chinese Alphabet, 2x2 in. high.
- 1 Eccentric Alphabet, 1 1/2 in. high.
- 1 Floral and bow-knot design—Violets, for sofa pillow covers or table cover decorations, buffet scarfs, etc., 13x13 in.
- 1 Spray violets for dollies, 1x7 in.
- 1 Conventional design for jewel work, for square dollies or scarf ends, 4x8 in.
- 1 Conventional design for Bulgarian work, for scarf ends, or dolly corners, 4x8 in.
- 1 design for medicine glass cover, with dial, 3x3 in.
- 1 border design of bow-knots, 1 1/2 in. wide.
- 1 Border design for flannel embroidery, 1 in. wide.
- 1 design for book mark, 3 1/2x3 1/2 inches.
- 1 design for tobacco pouch.
- 1 Border and corner design, Oriental, for table cover or lambrequin, etc., 7x7 inches.
- 1 design for lamp shade, Butterfly.
- 1 design, Tiger lily, 6 1/2x10 inches.
- 1 Scallop border for flannel work, 5 1/2 in. wide.
- 1 Empire corner design, with Fleur de Lis, 9x9 inches.
- 1 design for dolly work, 2 1/2x3 inches.
- 1 Wreath and bow-knot design for monogram, 3 1/2x4 inches.
- 1 Spray of Mignonette, 6x6 inches.
- 1 Spray Lily of the valley, 2 1/2x3 inches.
- 1 Empire design for picture frame, 10x12 inches.
- 1 Lily of the valley and bow-knot design, 15x15 in.
- 1 design for penwiper with motto, 4x7 inches.
- 1 Floral spray for tea cloth or center piece, dollies, 6x8 1/2 inches.
- 1 Dog's head for art work, 1 1/2x2 inches.
- 1 design of Mountain pine, with motto (see illustration), 11x14 inches.
- 1 design American flags, 7x7 inches.
- 1 design Poppies and leaves, 4x10 inches.
- 1 design for picture frame, American flags, etc. (see illustration), 8x10 inches.
- 1 Ribbon and floral design for monogram, 2 1/2x3 in.
- 1 design Nasturtium, 2 1/2x3 1/2 inches.
- 1 Conventional design for art work, 4x5 inches.
- 1 Conventional corner design, for table covers, etc., 9x9 inches.
- 1 Patriotic design for sofa pillow, American and Cuban flags, knapsacks and guns, 16x16 inches.
- 1 Set of six dolly designs, conventional patterns, 4x4 inches.
- 1 design for Cross stitch work, 3 1/2x3 1/2 inches.
- 1 Acorn design for scatter work.
- 1 Ribbon and Daisy design, 4x5 inches.
- 1 Conventional corner design 8x8 inches.
- 1 Floral and bow-knot dolly design, 5x5 inches.

The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made. With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

FREE Send 25 cents for a year's subscription to this paper and we will forward one of these outfits free all charges paid. Address LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

\$3.75 BUYS A \$30 WATCH

The handiest and best watch in the world for the money, superbly engraved, double Hunting case, stem wind and stem set, fitted with a high grade ruby jeweled movement, absolutely guaranteed for 25 YEARS.

Cut this out and send it to us and we will send you the watch by express for examination. If as represented, pay our special price \$3.75 and accept charge and it is yours. Mention if you desire ladies' or gent's size. Order today, as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only. CALUMET WATCH CO., Chicago

FAT

How to Reduce it. Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes:

"Reduced my weight 2 1/2 lbs. in 16 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. I will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL CO., Dept. B St. Louis, Mo.

LOTS OF MAIL .FREE.. THIS IS A BIG OFFER READ IT.

Put your name and address in our guaranteed Agents Directory which goes whirling all over America to firms, who will send you free samples of papers, magazines, pictures, cards, medicines, etc., etc. You will receive lots of mail. We must have 50,000 new names at once for our Directory, no matter how great the cost will be to us; we must have the names, and in order to obtain them quickly, we will send you by return mail, Free of cost, all of the following named goods: One fine Map of the U. S., 86 New Songs, Pictures of all the Presidents, 25 Pictures of Actresses, 12 Comic Pictures, One Cash Value Guide, One Stamp Value Guide, 6 Best Agents' Articles, (worth \$1.50) One large Catalogue, (scarcely goods) and a Free Dollar Due Bill, which entitles you to \$1.00 worth of goods, absolutely free from our list. HOW CAN WE DO IT? This Grand Offer is made to introduce our goods. We want you to trade with us regularly, and recommend us to your friends. We know you will surely do it when you get these goods. Send your name and address today and enclose 10 cents (coin or stamps) to pay postage, packing, etc. Just as soon as we receive your letter we will send all of the above mentioned goods to you. This is a tremendous offer. Don't wait, write today. Address your letter to AGENTS' DIRECTORY CO., 878 Dearborn Street, Dept. F1 CHICAGO, ILL. Agents Directory Co. is reliable and will do as agreed.—EDITOR

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FREE Send 25 cents for a year's subscription to this paper and we will forward one of these outfits free all charges paid. Address LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

IN THE ANTARCTIC.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ANTARCTIC adventure is never without interest to the world. Its hardships and its privations awake in the human breast an admiration and sympathy which no other trials can. Then, too, there is a mystery and a symbolism about the northern pole of our sphere which attracts every one whose imagination is not blunted with over civilization. But now, in these latter days explorers, looking for new worlds to conquer, turn toward the other end of the earth's axis, and find there a wonderland more marvelous

than any at the north, and a continent of such area that years will pass before the civilized world can know of its extent and wonders.

Up to the present time little has been known of the far southern seas. The Antarctic Ocean is far removed from all the continents inhabited by civilized nations. South America and Africa as they approach the south narrow to mere points, and Australia is too far from the cold southern sea to be closely interested in its attractions. Until within a few years none but whaling vessels had visited the Antarctic Ocean; but scientists and geographers now believe that within its limits, more than in any other part of the earth, important work of exploration must be accomplished. To this end several expeditions are now being fitted out, one from England and one from Germany. It is hoped that these will work together and thus accomplish much valuable work.

Two years ago a Belgian expedition was sent out, remaining two years in southern waters, but they did not succeed in landing upon the southern continent.

More successful, however, was the expedition under the leadership of Borchgrevink, which sailed from England in the summer of 1898. The ship chosen for the trip was the "Southern Cross" and it was carefully fitted out to brave the dangers of frigid seas. Mr. Borchgrevink had already had some experience in Antarctic waters and had, in fact, landed on Victoria Land five years before, though he had been unable to explore as he wished.

One must remember that the seasons, in that far away climate, occur at exactly opposite times from ours, so that on Dec. 19, 1898, the "Southern Cross" left Hobart Town, Tasmania, that it might get through the ice pack during the summer heat of December and January. In about two weeks she sighted the great ice pack, sparkling with the iridescence of the frozen regions. Some of the pack was composed of floes several miles in length and the channels between them were narrow. The "Southern Cross" entered one of these dangerous openings and for six weeks encountered terrible dangers constantly. The ice packed and jammed on all sides and piled up about the vessel until it seemed that she must go to pieces. At one time she was fairly buried in ice, great blocks rising to the level of the deck.

The middle of February found the brave party and their staunch craft in open water off Cape Adair, Victoria Land. After waiting for terrific gales to subside, a landing was made in Robertson Bay. Here, with great difficulty were landed stores and material for huts.

Cape Adair is a promontory a thousand feet high, from which the snow is blown as it falls, leaving bare the rocks and boulders which



THE SHIP IN THE ICE PACK.

compose it. So strong are the winds from the south that great rocks were blown from this mountain to the ship's deck during a cyclone. Two of the party succeeded in reaching the summit of this mountain, but only with the most terrible suffering in the face of a terrific gale. Three distinct kinds of moss were found on the ascent, exactly like the reindeer moss of the north. Near the bottom of the mountain the party made a valuable discovery. It was a vein of quartz, milky with blue streaks in it and very heavy, and had every indication of being gold bearing quartz.

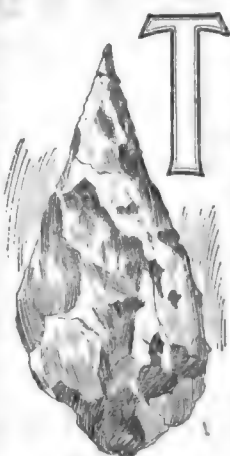
Huts were built near the shore and everything made ready for winter. Already valuable scientific observations had been made and the zoological collections had been begun with over one hundred rare birds' skins, and a new species of seal had been discovered.

On February 27, 1899, the "Southern Cross" departed for the north, leaving behind ten brave men, who were determined to accomplish much before the world heard from them again. They, with their dogs, would explore the southern continent, take observations of phenomena seen only in the far southern seas, and collect specimens of those animals and plants which are as yet unknown to the world.

Soon the ship will go south again and bring back the sturdy adventurers, who were willing to risk their lives that man might know better this earth on which he lives.

The Story of an Arrowhead.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THIS is a bit of chipped stone with a history! It was picked up on the prairies of Kansas where its last owner had dropped it as he flew over the plains on his fleet pony. That owner was no ordinary Indian but a chief of some repute and he knew where to go for his arrowheads. Far to the south, into Arizona, he journeyed and there he knew a spot where stone already chipped, might be had for the taking, and in such abundance that his tribe would be supplied for generations. Brush the dust and mud from the arrowhead and what do we find? A beautiful bit of moss agate with the delicate tracing of an ancient plant within its stony center. This plant grew perhaps a million years ago in the Arizona forest, now a petrified forest. Most of us have seen bits of petrified wood but how many Americans know of the Petrified Forests of Arizona. Their history goes far, far back to the time when that whole region was a wooded plain near the sea. Slowly the land sank beneath the surface of the water. Year after year the mineral matter in the water (and there was abundance of it) soaked into the wood taking the place of the woody fiber. Now the forces of nature were reversed and the rocky forest, together with the clay and sandstone in which it was imbedded, was raised out of the sea to its present height thousands of feet above sea level.



TREE PETRIFIED INTO AN AGATE BRIDGE.

As the years passed by the wind and rain wore away the surrounding rock and to-day that ancient forest stands revealed to us but it is the forest of olden times only in form. Take an axe and attempt to fell one of the trees and all about you will fly chips of flint, of agate or of smoky quartz. These are the chips which our Indian chief treasured for arrowheads. These stone logs are sometimes three or four feet in diameter and a cross section shows the rings, fibers and bark of the ancient tree. It is possible to cut slices from these trees and this material is highly valued for table tops and house decorations. Tiffany, in New York, has several articles made from this petrified wood and their price speaks for the value that is placed upon such rare articles. The stone is very hard and brittle and is difficult to cut, an ordinary stone saw together with diamond dust being the instrument used.

In several parts of the Petrified Forest the trees have fallen, or rather they fell in the long ages before man came on earth, and these fallen trunks often span a deep chasm beneath, forming bridges of solid agate, over which one may cross from side to side of what may have been an ancient stream. Cutting and polishing this wood is the work of many of the inhabitants of these regions, and because it is capable of such a brilliant polish it is becoming very valuable for jewelry as well as other decoration. But to the Indian of a century ago these "wood piles" were of value for the sharp edged chips which the weather has torn from the trees.

In some parts of the forest are masses of the wood showing most wonderful crystals and delicate colors of topaz and amethyst which are of great value as mineralogical specimens.

WOMEN GET RICH AS WELL AS MEN

How One Woman Makes \$18.00 to \$40.00 a Week.

Many women say it is hard to get along in the world because they do not have the chance to make money that men do. I disagree with them, for I am perfectly independent since starting in business a few months ago, and never make less than \$18.00 a week, and often as much as \$40.00. I am selling Baird's Non-Alcoholic Flavoring Powders, which are much superior and cheaper than the liquid extracts sold in stores. Before starting I wrote to the Baird Mfg. Co., 136 Baird Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa., and obtained samples which we tried in cakes, candies, custards and ice cream at our church social. Everything was so delicious that I wrote for the agency at once, and had no trouble in establishing a regular trade with my neighbors, which only occupies the time I can spare from household duties. The manufacturers say they will employ any earnest person, man or woman, who can spare all or part of their time, and I can say I never heard of such an easy way to make money. MRS. W.

\$1,000 SALARY PER YEAR. Ladies or Gentlemen. We have shared the general prosperity of the country, and we now need one or two permanent representatives in each state to look after our interests, manage our agents, and attend to collections. This position involves no canvassing and is a bona fide weekly salary position, with all expenses paid, to the right party. It is mainly office work conducted at your own home, with an occasional trip out among the agents. No investment required. Also three salaries vacancies in the traveling department. Enclose references and self-addressed stamped envelope to PROVIDENCE CO., 149 Caxton Bldg., CHICAGO.

LADIES I Make Big Wages AT HOME and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay \$10 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGLES, Box 6, Benton Harbor, Mich.

CLOTHING SALESMEN WANTED

\$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE. WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY IN THE UNITED STATES. If your references are satisfactory we will start you at once. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. NO CAPITAL REQUIRED. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc., and tailor-to-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION FEE. We regulate your profits to suit yourself. NO HOUSE TO HOUSE CANVASS. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure a strictly HIGH GRADE EMPLOYMENT at BIG WAGES. WE ARE THE WORLD'S LARGEST TAILORS. direct from the LARGEST AMERICAN and EUROPEAN MILLS. We control the entire output of several of these mills. We own our materials at the lowest possible cost, and operate the most extensive and economic tailoring plant in existence, and cut to measure and make to order suits and Overcoats from \$5.00 to \$15.00 (mostly \$5.00 to \$10.00). Pants from \$1.50 to \$5.00. Fancy Vests from \$2.00 up. The days of ready-made clothing are numbered. AT THESE PRICES everyone will prefer to have his garments cut to his measure and made to his order. NO DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ORDERS.

OUR PLAN. If your references are satisfactory we start you out at once. We furnish you FREE a complete AGENTS' SAMPLE BOOK AND OUTFIT. Our large, handsome, leather bound Sample Book contains our entire line of Suits, Overcoats, Ties, Sweaters and Vestings; full instructions for taking measurements which you can learn in 5 minutes from the large photographic illustrations in the book, colored lithographed fashion plates, full description of the material and finish of each sample, and prices left blank for you to fill in, fixing your profit to suit yourself. This Sample Book is put up in a Fine Canvas Carrying Case, which also contains Tape Measure, Order Blanks, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter and Agents' Guide and Instruction Book, with Net Confidential Price List, also complete "Salesman's Talk." Our instructions are so plain, our suggestions to the salesman so thorough, that anyone can immediately make a success of the work. YOU REQUIRE NOTHING. Just take the orders and send them to us; we make the garments promptly and send them by express. C. O. D. subject to examination, and if not perfectly satisfactory they can be returned to us at our expense. Neither the agent nor his customer assumes the slightest risk. WE TAKE ALL THE CHANCES OF THE TRANSACTION. We either ship direct to your customers, collecting your full selling price and send you weekly check for all your profit; or, if you prefer, we ship direct to you at your net confidential price, allowing you to make your own collections.

YOU CAN ADD A LIBERAL PROFIT TO YOUR CONFIDENTIAL PRICE. NEARLY ALL OUR MEN MAKE \$40.00 EVERY WEEK IN THE YEAR.

THE OUTFIT IS ABSOLUTELY FREE, and OUTFIT, but in order to protect ourselves against many who might impose on us by sending for the outfit (which costs us between \$5.00 and \$6.00), with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, we require each applicant to cut this ad and mail to us, giving the names of at least two parties as references, and further agree to pay a temporary deposit of One Dollar and express charges for the outfit when received, if found exactly as represented and really a big money maker. While this nominal deposit of \$1.00 for the outfit is not one-fifth of its cost it insures the good faith of applicants, and we promptly refund your \$1.00 as soon as your sales amount to \$25.00, which amount you can take the first day out. IF YOU WISH TO MAKE \$5.00 TO \$20.00 EVERY DAY cut this notice out and mail to us at once, giving us the names of two or more men as reference.

REFERENCES: Any Express or Railroad Co. Any business man or resident of Chicago.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO.
West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.
(This Company is thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

DO NOT SEND US ANY MONEY

LOOK YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS GRAND OFFER. A Magnificent Solid Gold-Plated Initial Bracelet or Ring. Our Rings are all set with a carefully selected Ruby or Emerald Stone, mounted in a Tiffany setting. The Bracelets are in the latest style, popular Curb Link; the lock and key being exquisitely engraved. They present a beautiful appearance and will wear a lifetime. Over 50,000 young ladies are now wearing our rings and bracelets. We guarantee every thing just as we advertise. Just send us your name and address (letter or postal), that's all. We will send you 10 large handsome stamped doilies, ready for embroidering (Carnations, Roses, Chrysanthemums, Pansies, Holly). Each pattern a prize-selected design. Sell these to your friends at 5c. each, send us the one dollar collected and we will promptly send you the bracelet with your initial engraved on it, or a ring, take your choice. Our reliability is established. We refer to the publisher of this paper or to any National Bank in this city. Write sure-to-day for the doilies; your success is certain; sell at sight and wanted in every home. (Write to BOX 50, STERLING JEWELRY CO., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.)

FOLDING CAMERA FREE

A model of the workman's art, wood parts Mahogany finish, brass work lacquered and polished, covered with Morocco leather, fitted with high grade Achromatic lens, capacity eight 4x5 in. plates, substantially same as shown in picture. You can get this first-class folding Camera and a handsome sterling silver or rolled gold Bracelet with lock and key for selling our Granules. We mean what we say and will give this reliable Camera absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Health Granules, a positive cure for constipation, indigestion, headache, and liver troubles, if you agree to sell only six bottles of Granules at 25 cents a bottle, write at once and we promptly send Granules by mail. When sold send us the \$1.50 and we send you a handsome Bracelet together with our offer of a folding Camera same day we receive the money. This is a genuine offer by a reliable concern to every lady, and all who receive the Bracelet and Camera for selling our Granules are delighted.

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LOOK YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS GRAND OFFER. A Magnificent Solid Gold-Plated Initial Bracelet or Ring. Our Rings are all set with a carefully selected Ruby or Emerald Stone, mounted in a Tiffany setting. The Bracelets are in the latest style, popular Curb Link; the lock and key being exquisitely engraved. They present a beautiful appearance and will wear a lifetime. Over 50,000 young ladies are now wearing our rings and bracelets. We guarantee every thing just as we advertise. Just send us your name and address (letter or postal), that's all. We will send you 10 large handsome stamped doilies, ready for embroidering (Carnations, Roses, Chrysanthemums, Pansies, Holly). Each pattern a prize-selected design. Sell these to your friends at 5c. each, send us the one dollar collected and we will promptly send you the bracelet with your initial engraved on it, or a ring, take your choice. Our reliability is established. We refer to the publisher of this paper or to any National Bank in this city. Write sure-to-day for the doilies; your success is certain; sell at sight and wanted in every home. (Write to BOX 50, STERLING JEWELRY CO., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.)

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GEORGE WASHINGTON.

AS A MAN AND A MASON.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



fathers and Mrs. Mildred Gregory godmother."

This date, as given in the old Bible being in accordance with the calendars then used and equivalent to February 22d, of our later ones.

Washington and his family always observed the 11th as his birthday until his twentieth year, and the first known public celebration of his birth was on February 11th, 1784.

Washington secured a fair education and fitted himself for surveyor, following that line of work for several years, three of which were spent in the employ of Lord Fairfax. During the last year of these three his brother died, leaving the estate of Mount Vernon to his daughter with the provision that if she died without issue, it should then go to his brother George Washington.

The daughter died in 1752, and having no children Washington came into possession of the place which is to-day sacred ground because it was his home, and is his last resting place.

Washington became a Mason before he attained his majority, as shown by the old records of the Fredericksburg Lodge, which record his presence there on Nov. 4, 1752, which is probably the date of his initiation. The records show, also, that four months elapsed before he became a "Fellow Craft" Mason and eight months before he became a "Master Mason."

The Bible on which Washington was obligated is a small quarto volume, bearing the inscription "Cambridge, printed by John Field, printer to the Universalist, 1668," and is preserved with the seal and the old records of the Lodge.

In 1759, Washington was married to Martha Dandridge Custis, widow of Col. Daniel Parke Custis, who brought with her a son and daughter, to whom Washington took the place of a loving and loved father.

The daughter died just before the opening of the Revolutionary War, but the son, John Parke Custis, served as one of Washington's aides-de-camp until he died from the effects of a fever contracted at Yorktown.

After the death of his step-son, Washington at once adopted his two children, George Washington Parke Custis and Nelly Custis, and these are the children who have been called "The children of Mount Vernon"—Washington's only by adoption.

The ceremony which made George Washington the first President of the United States was performed in New York City on April 30th, 1789, when he was fifty-seven years of age.

Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State of New York and Grand Master of its Grand Lodge of Masons administered the oath of office, using the Bible which belonged to the St. John's Lodge of Masons in the city. Gen. Jacob Morton who was Marshal of the day was also Master of St. John's Lodge and brought the Bible from the altar of the Lodge room for use in the ceremony.

The leaf on which Washington pressed his lips was at once folded over, and very soon after the Lodge caused a complete history of the event and a picture of Washington to be engraved on the cover, and the Bible is still in the possession of St. John's Lodge No. 1.

Washington died on Dec. 14th, 1799, and the funeral services were held at noon on Dec. 18th, Rev. Dr. Davis who was Rector of Washington's church (The Episcopal church of Alexandria) and also a member of the Lodge to which he belonged (No. 22 of Alexandria) conducting them, assisted by the Lodge.

Public Memorial services were held in New York on Dec. 31st, to express the sorrow of the people. The Masonic Fraternity were out in full force, and once more the Bible which Washington was sworn into office on was brought from its place in the Lodge room and carried, just before the Grand Master, in the procession.

Some Masonic Lodges of Boston held private Memorial services while others joined in the public ceremonies, but the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction waited until the 11th of the following February and then held special services followed by public ceremonies.

At the time of Washington's death the Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, sent their message of sympathy to Mrs. Washington, at the same time asking for a lock of his hair, to be placed in a Golden Urn, and preserved with the jewels of the society. The request was granted and when the ceremonies of February 11th were being carried out, the Urn containing the lock of hair was carried in the procession by six distinguished Masons, after which it was placed in the keeping of the Grand Lodge.

Many relics are held by the various Lodges of the country in memory of Washington, but aside from those already named, one of the most valuable is the apron sent to him by the wife of Gen. LaFayette in 1784.

Madame LaFayette made the apron of white silk and embroidered the masonic emblems on it with colored silks. The apron was placed in a valuable rose-wood box, also ornamented with masonic emblems, and delivered to Washington by Gen. LaFayette when he came to America. For a long time this apron was kept at Mount Vernon but was finally presented, by Washington's heirs, to the Washington Benevolent Society, and by them given to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in whose possession it remains, while the box in which it was sent is treasured among the possessions of Alexandria Lodge.

Two years before Washington received the apron from Madame LaFayette he had been presented with one by Watson and Cassoul,

worked in gold and silver tinsels and showing the French and American flags. From the fact that this apron is kept with the LaFayette box in the possession of Alexandria Lodge, many people make the mistake of supposing it to be the apron which came in the box.

Mention should be made of one other relic, which is of national interest in a double sense. On September 18th, 1793, Washington assisted in laying the south-east corner stone of the Capitol building in Washington, and the ivory gavel which he used on that occasion is preserved by Lodge No. 9 of Georgetown, which was one of the Lodges taking part in the ceremonies.

A MAGIC FLUTE ROMANCE.

John Henderson is the luckiest man in the West. If you don't believe it ask him and he will confess it, and tell you moreover that he owes all his good luck in this life to the Magic Flute. It is a strange story, but the true facts are these: Mr. Henderson was in love. The object of his affections was a beautiful young girl of his native town, Des Moines. She was a musical enthusiast and had suitors by the score, for she was not only charming and beautiful of face and figure, but to these graces she added the talent of a superb musician. Naturally, though Mr. Henderson pressed his suit with great ardor, as he was not a performer on any musical instrument he failed to make the desired impression, however much he loved music, and dearly loved the object of his affections.

Happening in Omaha one day, quite disconsolate, he was astonished to hear sweet and tender strains issuing from the rear door of what proved to be a music store. He paused at the curbstone and listened. It was one of the favorite songs of his beloved, and so mellow and sweet were the sounds that they brought tears to his eyes. Entering the store the stranger asked what sort of an instrument it was that gave forth such magic sounds. He was shown the Magic Flute which had just arrived from New York. Thinking that the instrument that performed such tone miracles must have cost a hundred dollars or more, he was amazed to see what a trifling sum. He bought the instrument, and the next day returned to his native city and that night under the window of the maiden who had rejected him for his lack of musical abilities, Mr. Henderson poured forth his soul in the songs she loved so well. What was the result? The neglected lover was reinstated in the affections of the fair one, the rival suitors retired beaten in the game, and shortly after he was offered a large nightly sum by a celebrated impresario to appear in concert halls of the leading cities of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, completely happy and full of gratitude for the workings of the Magic Flute, are at present traveling in the East, playing to large houses, Mrs. Henderson accompanying her husband on the piano. The musical world is amazed and delighted with the performances of Mr. Henderson on the Magic Flute. And yet his case is merely typical. You may not win a lovely bride by your skill on the wonderful instrument, but one thing you can do, even if you do not know one note from another, you can play a tune in five minutes and should delight your friends with it within a week.

We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce these wonderful Flutes, and will send one free, all charges paid, including a trial yearly subscription to all sending 25c. to COMFORT Subscription Department, Augusta, Maine. Agents are selling large quantities of these Flutes and you better not delay in sending for a sample and getting wholesale prices.

At a depth of 45 feet under ground the temperature is constant throughout the year.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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REGULATE THE LIVER
25c. 10c.

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and Almanac for 1900, two colors, 160 pages, 110 illustrations of Poultry, Incubators, Broilers, Poultry Houses, etc. How to raise Chickens successfully, their care, diseases and remedies. Diagrams with full descriptions of Poultry houses. All about Incubators, Broilers and thoroughbred Poultry, with lowest prices. Price only 15 cents. C. C. SHOEMAKER, Box 211, FREEPORT, ILL.

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We give free a Beautiful Rolled Gold Puritan Rose Diamond Ring—Tiffany setting—for selling 20 five-cent packages Garfield Pure Peppermint Gum among friends. Catalog 200 other premiums free. Send us your name. We send gum at once. Garfield Gum Co., 71, Mendville, Pa.

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Dyed and faded carpets, dresses and clothing of all kinds to look like new. No experience necessary to get beautiful colors that won't fade. Hot or Warm Dye with Toner's Famous Dye. Each package colors from one to four pounds according to shade. To introduce them give name of your dealer and we will send you 6 packages for 40c or 1 for 10c. Say whether for wool or cotton. Address: FRENCH DYE CO., Box 451, VASSAR, MICH.

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and Movable Hot Compound positively Cure Rheumatism. The Drafts can be worn in any shoe, and will draw out pain from any part of the system. One Pair Mailed FREE. Address Bates Rheumatic Care Co., South Boston, Mass.

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ASTHMA Instant relief and positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. G. C. KIRKMAN, R. D., Box 737, Augusta, Maine.

TESTED, HOLLOW GROUND RAZOR & STROP to SUIT, \$1.

Every M. & G. blade is hand forged from razor steel, file tested, warranted. This cut is exact size of 75-cent strong knife. We will send you one for 4mc.; 5 for \$3; postpaid. Best 7-inch shears, 60c. (This knife and shears, \$1.) Lady's 2-blade pearl, 35c. Pruning, 75c.; budding, 35c.; grafting, 25c. Send for 80-page free list and "How to Use a Razor." MAHER & GROSCH CO., 71 A Street, Toledo, Ohio.

\$1,000 FOR A CERTAIN OLD COIN.

old POSTAGE STAMPS. THE GLOBE reports that a coin was found in Galveston worth \$5.00. THE NEW YORK JOURNAL says that a cent was picked up at Aurora, N. Y., worth \$1.30, and that Mr. Castle paid \$4,400 FOR A STAMP found at Louisville, Ky. THE WORLD says: "Many people have become wealthy by looking at old coins and stamps." THE HOME JOURNAL says: "Coin and stamp collecting is a profitable business, as there are but few in it. The Numismatic Bank buys from Agents all over the country, and pays them big sums." Coins that are very hard to find in one section are often easily found in others. A Boston hawker sold 116 coppers for \$6.15, 25 silver coins for \$4.75, and 4 gold coins for \$1.70, and others have done nearly as well. MR. F. W. AYER sold recently a lot of stamps, colored and white, to Stanley Gibbons for \$250,000. THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS says: "The Numismatic Bank is not only the largest institution of its kind, but as reliable, safe and trustworthy to deal with as any National Bank. The enormous business done by them is the result of SQUARE DEALING and liberality." Send two stamps for our illustrated circular on rare coins and stamps, which may prove to be your stepping stone to wealth and independence. NUMISMATIC BANK, (Dept. C, Boston, Mass.

SILK FREE Large pkg. pretty piece and 100 crazy stitches free with 3 months' subscription to our paper, for 10c. or six 2c. stamps. Women's Home Monthly, B 5, St. Louis, Mo.

LADIES, If you have superfluous HAIR ON THE FACE send for new information how to remove it easily and effectively without chemicals or instruments. Correspondence confidential in plain sealed envelope. Mrs. M. N. PERRY, C-4 Box 93, Oak Park, Ill.

DEALERS CUT IN TWO PRICES Musical Instruments of all kinds fine toned and of beautiful construction, workmanship and finish. Shipped direct from factory at wholesale prices. C. with privilege of examination. We have the best for the least money. A sweet toned Mandolin, finely finished in mahogany and maple, 9 ribs, \$4.00; dealers ask \$8.00; high grade Guitar \$2.90, worth \$6.00; Stradivarius Model Violin, case and full outfit, \$9.50 equal to any sold at \$25.00; Banjos \$1.25 and up; Graphophones \$5 and up. sent on 30 days FREE TRIAL. A \$250 high grade Kenwood Piano \$115. A \$75 Organ \$32.50. Pianocolor \$120. Organs down to \$21.75. All instruments guaranteed. Send for large illustrated Catalog FREE. Address: CASH BUYERS' UNION, 160 W. Van Buren St., E-5, Chicago.

\$2.98 HUNTING CASE Watches are the best. Read our great bargain. Cut this out and send it to us with your address and we will send you a \$2.98 watch for examination before paying one cent. One beautiful 14 K. gold plated, double hunting case, scratch stem wind and set, Ladies' ornate size, fitted with fine jeweled works; a guaranteed time-keeper, equal in appearance to a \$50.00 gold filled watch warranted for 20 years. If satisfactory pay express agent \$3.98 and charges. Address: WALTHAM GOLD WATCH CO., 100 STATE ST., CHICAGO.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR

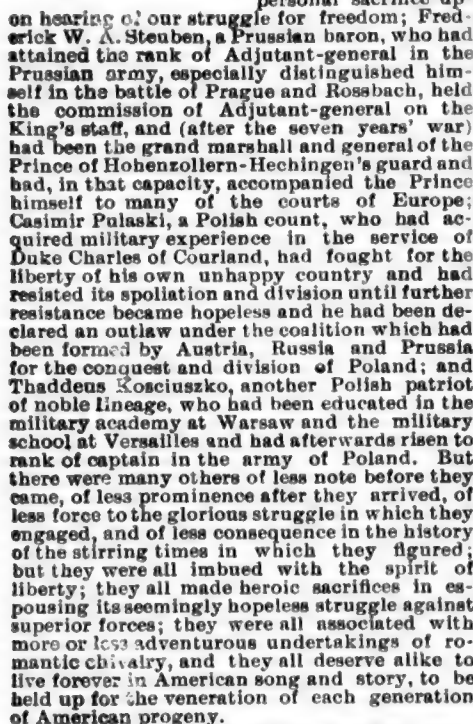
to us with \$1.00, and we will send you this NEW IMPROVED ACME QUEEN PARLOR ORGAN, by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if you find it exactly as represented, equal to organs that retail at \$75.00 to \$100.00, the greatest value you ever saw and far better than organs advertised by others at more money, pay the freight and get OUR SPECIAL 90 DAYS' OFFER PRICE, \$31.75, less the \$1.00, or \$30.75, and freight charges. **\$31.75 IS OUR SPECIAL 90 DAYS' PRICE** Less than one-half the price charged by others. **SUCH AN OFFER WAS NEVER MADE BEFORE** THE ACME QUEEN is one of the most DURABLE AND SWEETEST TONED instruments ever made. From form some idea of its beautiful appearance. Made from solid quarter sawed oak, antique finish, handsomely decorated and ornamented, LATEST 1899 STYLE. THE ACME QUEEN is 6 feet 5 inches high, 42 inches long, 23 inches wide and weighs 350 pounds. Contains 8 octaves, 11 stops, as follows: Diapason, Principal, Bassoon, Trombone, French Horn, Trumpet, Cornet, Clarinet, Flute, Piccolo, Violoncello, Double Bass, Contrabass, Tuba, Euphonium, Mellophone, Snare Drum, Tom Cymbal, Bass Drum, Gong, Chimes, Bells, etc. The ACME QUEEN is furnished with a 10x14 beveled plate French mirror, nickel plated pedal frame, and every modern improvement. We furnish free a handsome organ stool and the best organ instruction book published. **GUARANTEED 25 YEARS** With every ACME QUEEN ORGAN we issue a written binding 25-year guarantee, by the terms and conditions of which if any part gives out we repair it free of charge. Try it one month and we will refund your money if you are not perfectly satisfied. 500 of these organs will be sold at \$31.75. ORDER AT ONCE. DON'T DELAY. **OUR RELIABILITY IS ESTABLISHED** If you have not dealt with us, ask your neighbor about us, write the publisher of this paper or Metropolitan National Bank, or Corn Exchange National Bank, Chicago; or German Exchange Bank, New York; or any railroad or express company in Chicago. We have a capital of over \$700,000.00, occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago, and employ nearly 2,000 people in our manufacturing plant. WE SELL ORGANS AT \$25.00 and up; PIANOS, \$115.00 and up; also everything in musical instruments at lowest wholesale prices. Write for free special organ, piano and musical instrument catalogue. Address: SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Fulton, Desplains and Wayne Streets, CHICAGO, ILL.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

"THAT NOBLE ANIMAL, THE HORSE." YOU WANT IT.

THE GREATEST and BEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN on HORSES. A Gold Mine of Interest and Information by Which You Save Dollars. Prof. Oscar Gleason, the greatest horse owner, trainer and breaker that ever lived in America, has at last consented to write a book on the Horse. We have made arrangement to furnish copies of this valuable work to all lovers of horses, and we call your attention to the great value of this unparalleled work which should be in every home and stable in the land. Gleason's Horse Book is a large handsomely bound book of over 400 pages, printed on pure white paper in large, clear type, bound in colored covers and richly and elegantly illustrated with 150 full plates and illustrations drawn by special artists. It is the most complete horse book ever published, produced under the direction of the United States Government Veterinary Surgeon. In this book Prof. Gleason has given to the world for the first time his wonderful methods of training and treating horses. It contains chapters on History, Education, Training, Tricks, How to Buy, Feeding, Breeding, Breaking and Harnessing, How to Detect Soundness, Care, Curing, and all the latest and most successful methods of horse management. It is a whole Library on Horses in itself. Gleason's book has always been sold as high as \$2.50 a volume until now. Our monthly paper into homes where an interest is taken in horses we send above, to every person who will send three cents to pay for the book. Great Club Premium. If you will get up a club of only two yearly subscribers to this paper at the special trial subscription price of 25 cents each we will send you the book as a free premium. Address NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT



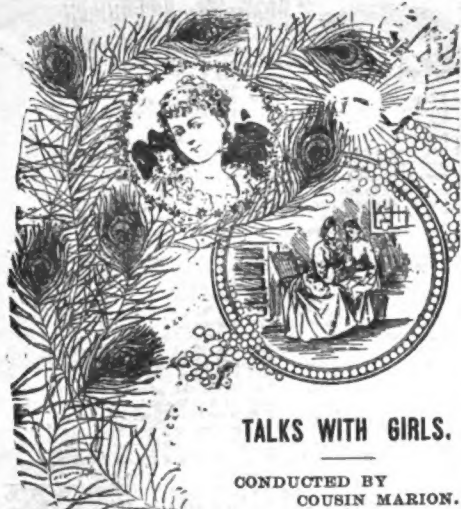
General Knox (one of Washington's best generals and most trusted officers, as well as his first Secretary of War after he became President), was in command of the artillery, and Washington was unwilling to have him superseded by any one, much less by a raw recruit, ignorant of our country, language and people; for it would have been detrimental to the prosperity of the army and it would have worked a discourtesy, if not an indignity, upon a worthy and most capable officer. As Washington was opposed to having Gen. Knox displaced, and there was no other way of honoring the terms of the contract, the matter was referred to Congress for adjudication. But Congress, not knowing just how to get out of the embarrassment, adopted a course of dilly-dally and delay by putting the final settlement of the question off, from time to time, in the hope that some-

ter you wish. We positively give away one of the handsomest gold plated, ladies' or gents' size, hunting case, stem wind watches you ever saw. **ESSEX COMPANY, Box 240, NEW YORK.**

kinds of tinware or used to put up canned fruits etc. comes with this set and we will send a Set to you free.

Inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid. and make

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED



Well, cousins, how have you passed the first month of the new year? Does 1900 seem to you to be very much different from the other years you have known? I imagine not, but I hope before the year is over that each and every one of you will have found it the best year of your lives and that it will be so because you have used your best endeavors to make it so. It is that, dear cousins, which makes the years better, and you must remember it always in everything you do. Now, let us see what you have to talk to me about.

The first is "Doubtful" of Belle Plaines, Iowa, and she wants to know what to do with a young man who calls regularly awhile and then irregularly, and never says when he will come again or whether he will ever come again. The answer is easy. That kind of a young man is to be treated with indifference and every now and then when he calls, the young lady should have an engagement with some other young man. And most of all stop giving him a thought; he isn't worth it.

Inquisitive Nelly, Battle Creek, Mich.—(1) You may not invite your escort in when he brings you home, provided it is not after ten o'clock. (2) You can get a book on the subject at any bookstore. (3) Genius will show itself before the age of fifteen. Go right on doing the best you can and if you have genius of any kind everybody will know it.

Benlah, Rhineland, Wis.—The simpler the subject you have for your class essay, the better, and anything you know the most about will do. In writing a Class Prophecy make it as ridiculous as possible by getting it as far from the truth as possible.

Verletta Van, Boise, Idaho.—Yes, it is an insult to a lady for a man to attempt any familiarity with her. (2) Love is not to be won; it comes freely or not at all.

Mary M., Sioux Falls, S. D.—There is no cure for a nose that gets red when it gets cold, except to keep it warm. Did you ever see a nose that wouldn't get red when it is cold? Aren't you worried over nothing?

I. B. C., Watonsville, Cal.—It is difficult to find work to do at home that will pay. Thousands are trying to find it and only a very few succeed. Don't pay money for anything till you know what you are going to get.

Goldcake, Freeport, Ill.—Do not use hair dye to change the color the Lord gave your hair. (2) No cure. (3) No, a youth of sixteen who doesn't know his multiplication table has no business going to see a girl of twenty-three—unless she is his school teacher and he wants to learn arithmetic.

Rosy Lee, Glenview, Ky.—Your question is unanswerable as there are no data on the subject.

O. and B., Washington, D. C.—Better be friendly with the family of the young man to whom you are engaged. (2) Address the letter to the person and the company and regiment and send it to the War Dept., Washington. (3) The young man may do as he pleases about giving you his photograph. Make him return yours. (4) No, all red headed people are not deceitful—that is, not more deceitful than the other kind. (5) See answer above to "Doubtful". (6) You may go driving during the day with a man.

Sweet Sixteen, St. Joseph, Mo.—Girls of sixteen have not arrived at the "best age" and that makes all the things you ask about improper. Talk these things over with your Sunday School teacher.

N. B. C., Campbellsburg, Ky.—Actresses do not wear masks to make themselves beautiful. They paint, that is all. (2) Advertise your parlor organ in the local newspaper.

Dora, Wilkes Barre, Pa.—The lady may take her own time to answer a note from a man, whether it comes by messenger or not. Ordinarily she should answer as promptly as possible. The man pays for the messenger, unless he is called by the lady.

Tommy and Nell, Villa Grove, Ill.—(1 and 2) No. (3) Young ladies should not answer advertisements for correspondence. (4) Don't marry the jealous and selfish man if there is any other man to marry—and there always is. (5) I think railroad men, "especially baggage masters," are about as trustworthy as the average man. (6) Sometimes the marriage of a Protestant and a Catholic is very happy, but it is risky. (7) If she is engaged to him she may kiss him good by. Not otherwise. (8) Of course, tell your friend, man or woman, all about the new frocks you have got. (9) A lady may send a gentleman flowers, but it is usually the other way. (10) Nobody exactly knows why a fast young man is more attractive than the slow kind, but he always is more so. (11) Stay in church till the services are over. (12) A young man who will go from Virginia to Illinois to see his sweetheart must have serious intentions. Hasn't he popped the question yet? (13) Ask your mother why you should not send the kodak picture you mention. (14) You may meet the young man in the city if you have a chaperone. (15) Don't flirt with your sweetheart. It is dishonorable and dishonest.

Rose Bud, Boyd, Texas—Truly, dear cousin, with so susceptible a heart as yours I do not see how you can avoid being in trouble. Suppose you marry the young man in the show business and travel with him. That will keep your mind off of yourself.

Phyllis, Baltimore County, Md.—A year is plenty long enough for an engagement.

H. and S., Roann, Ind.—Snub the youth that is too stupid to talk. (2) Have as little as possible to do with people who make engagements and do not keep them. It is only another form of lying.

Violet, Augusta, Va.—Ask the young man for the lock of hair. (2) Paper is not an edible, therefore do not eat it. It is made of cord wool, old rags and other things not found on the table. (3) Don't wait at the bathroom. (4) You can wear any colors if you don't have any of them too pronounced.

Gervais, Harpster, Idaho.—You should lead the way into your own house. (2) Begin eating at a hotel when your order comes, if you want it hot. (3) Your escort leads the way in a hotel dining room, and you put your gloves in your pocket if you want to. (4) Ask the lady's permission before introducing a man. (5) Congratulations are in order immediately after the ceremony if the wedding occurs in the house, and the bridesmaid leads.

Lampasas, Texas—Miss Helen Gould is a brunette about the average height, between twenty-five and thirty, and she lives in New York City.

Now, dears, all your questions are answered, and I will say by the cold winds of March come, but don't let the chill ever get into your warm, young hearts and make your world a cheerless place.

COUSIN MARION.



LEARN TO HYPNOTIZE!

Reader, do you desire to become a Hypnotist? Do you want to know how to utilize the most powerful and mysterious force of nature? Do you value control over others? Do you value the means of securing friendship, love and personal influence? Do you value the power to conquer pain and banish sickness, to reform a misguided friend, to gain business success, to win wealth, position and happiness? If you do, you must learn to Hypnotize. Why not? No other accomplishment is so easily acquired. It can be mastered in a few hours time, without leaving your home. It costs nothing to find out all about it. The greatest Hypnotist of the century has just issued in book form a large and exhaustive TREATISE on Hypnotism, in which he explains the principles of the whole ground of his Science, and he will send it while the edition lasts, absolutely FREE to all who apply. The book is profusely illustrated, containing hundreds of beautiful and artistic engravings, and shows as never was done before the principles, features, wonders and uses of this mysterious Science, all in a popular and pleasing style. It tells you just what Hypnotism is, and what you may accomplish with it. It shows you how you may sway the minds of others, perform astounding feats and produce amusements by the hour. New and instantaneous methods. Success absolutely guaranteed. Remember, this grand work costs you nothing. It benefits everybody who reads it. It places you in touch with the wonder-science of the age. Read it anyhow. It is absolutely FREE. A postal card will bring it by return mail, all charges paid. Apply at once to PROF. L. A. HARRADEN, Box 320, JACKSON, MICH.

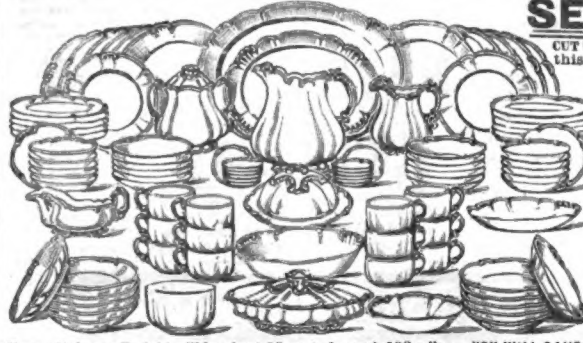
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Full participation in the newest and most efficient Free Money Help Plan ever devised, by which **\$100.00 FREE** will be advanced IN CASH for each applicant, may be secured by cutting out this NUMBERED coupon voucher and sending it with name and address in a SEALED envelope to MANAGER J. S. L., (Box 187), JERSEY CITY, N. J.



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bicycles, sewing machines, house furnishings, ladies' and gentlemen's watches, cameras, mandolins, guitars, violins, study year, dinner sets, guns, and your choice of a hundred other articles, all guaranteed. Simply introduce a few boxes of our unexcelled toilet soaps and any of them are yours. Send no money. We trust you. Girls and boys do as well as older people. Write at once for full information. We mail handsome illustrated catalog free. Address Great Northern Soap Works, 24 Lake St., Oak Park, Ill.



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THIS SET CONSISTS OF 100 PIECES OF THE HIGHEST GRADE GENUINE VITREOUS WHITE CHINA of the very latest and most stylish shape, as hard as flint, practically indestructible, pure white in color. THE FOLLOWING 100 FULL-SIZE PIECES COMPLETE THE SET: 12 soup plates, 12 5-inch plates, 12 7-inch plates, 12 coffee cups, 12 saucers, 12 individual butter dishes, 12 4-inch fruit plates, 1 8-inch platter, 1 13-inch platter, 1 7-inch baker, 1 8-inch baker, 1 8-inch covered dish, 1 pickle dish, 1 sauce boat, 1 covered butter dish, 1 sugar bowl, 1 extra bowl, 1 large pitcher, 1 medium pitcher. Freight will be about 50 cents for each 500 miles. YOU WILL SAVE ONE-HALF IN PRICE. ORDER NOW! DON'T DELAY. Write for free catalogue of everything in Crockery. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.



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WE WILL MAIL FREE on application, to any address, full information how to grow hair upon the balding head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty partings, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color, after all other remedies have failed. Enclose 2 cent stamp for sealed package. Address

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\$2000 IN GOLD FREE

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HISTORY PUZZLE

We will give \$2000.00 in gold to anyone who will arrange the twenty-one (21) letters printed above into the names of three well known states of the United States. This is an instructive and interesting problem of history. One of these three states was settled by the Spanish in 1564, and became a territory March 5, 1822, and then a state March 5, 1845. Another of these three states was settled by the French, 1760, became a territory May 7, 1800, and a state Dec. 11, 1816. The other one of these three states was settled by the English in 1783, and was one of the original states. Each one of these three states have the same number of letters in it, and each also ends with the letter "A." Remember we do not want one cent of your money. There is only one condition which will take less than one hour of your time, and that is that you shall sell eight subscriptions at twenty-five cents each to one of the oldest and best known Boston magazines which has been established over twenty-two years. Your friends will thank you as they will each save twenty-five cents by trading with you. In making the three names the letters can only be used as many times as they appear. After you have found the three correct names you will have used every letter in the twenty-one exactly as many times as it appears. The money will be paid March 20, 1900. Should more than one person succeed in finding the three correct names the money will be equally divided. We make this liberal offer in order to introduce one of the most charming and interesting family magazines fully illustrated with art colored covers into every family and home where it is now unknown. Try and win! If you will make the three correct names and send them to us at once, who knows but that you will win the prize? Anyway we do not want any money from you and a contest like this is very interesting. As soon as we receive your solution, if it is correct, we will mail you at once the eight coupons. You will know your solution is correct if you receive the coupons. We sincerely hope you will as we shall surely give the \$2000.00 away anyway. Do not delay. Write at once.

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Here is the only reliable never-failing standby. It is the nearest educational novelty of the day. This pencil is a marvel of ingenious mechanism, and a great profit maker for agents.

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The Educational Value of this Arithmetic Pencil is based on the highest Multiplication Table it contains. Every person should know it. Yet many never learn it. They are thus hindered in acquiring quickness and accuracy in mental calculation so necessary to business success. It is especially recommended to young people starting in business life and to those with neglected education. Teachers recommend it to their pupils because the use of the pencil imparts a knowledge of these figures in 1/2 of the time required by the usual methods. Even the Indian office of the U. S. government has recognized its educational merits and recommended that the superintendents of all Indian schools be supplied with samples.

SPECIAL OFFER. These Calculating Pencils will be sold for 25c. each but we are anxious to show you how wonderful they are so will send one free to all who enclose 15c. for a six months' subscription to Sunshine, the great monthly, two pencils and a year's subscription for only 25c. Thousands are sold by agents. We send six pencils for 60c., twelve for one dollar, all charges paid by us. One hundred for \$7.50, express not paid. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

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I can cure your children of in- continence of urine. Sample FREE. Address F. E. HAY, R. D., Bloomington, Ill.

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A HANDSOME MUSTACHE or fine beard grown on the smoothest face in 3 weeks, or money refunded. Baldness cured at once. Our TUBERIN HAIR GROWER does it. We warrant every package. Avoid cheap imitations, get the genuine direct, 35 cents, 5 for 50c. by mail. Address, THERMONT MANUFACTURING CO., BOSTON, MASS.

PILES Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. Botof, Box 978, Augusta, Me.

OPIUM and Liquor Habit cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Write DR. J. L. STEPHENS CO., Dept. C1, Lebanon, Ohio.

WE ARE

Searching for Sufferers

YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT

YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER

YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL

SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.

YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness 'feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? Is your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.

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You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say \$25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

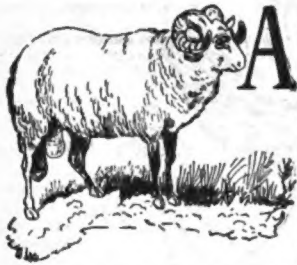
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We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address,

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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



ANOTHER Astrological Year has dropped into the abyss of the past and Mother Earth begins a new journey around the Sun this year at about half-past 8 o'clock in the evening of the 20th day of March, Washington Time. At that moment the last degrees of the celestial sign of the BALANCE will ascend with Scorpio occupying the most of the ascending house. Venus and Mars, rulers of the ascending signs, are, therefore, taken as joint rulers of the scheme erected for the time. Those two planets are benevolently beholding each other and mutually assisting each other for good. The Moon, co-signifier of the people of the country, is in the ascendant and has the good rays of Mars a joint ruler. Venus, ruler of the sign ascending, angular and powerful in her own sign, presignifies general prosperity, health and gladness of the people and a fruitful condition of the earth.

JUPITER, the GREAT BENEFIC, is dignified and in the House of the Nation's treasure giving additional testimony of the financial prosperity of the government, marked increase of public revenues and general good fortune in a financial sense. True, Mars bears somewhat unfavorably upon Jupiter, which indicates some heavy expenditures for war purposes, some pronounced antagonists among the people against consolidations of capital in the shape of trusts, and the probable loss of some government property, ship, or buildings by fire or violence of the elements.

Mercury retrograde and having the square of Saturn indicates some unusual agitation in Congress on questions involving the Postal service of the nation and the public revenue from the same. Scientific and literary men meet with some unusual difficulties and the obituary of the Spring Quarter will contain the names of some quite eminent men in science and literature. One highly learned in the law and another high in church councils goes to "that bourne from whence no traveler returns." Some serious cases of dishonesty among postal employees are unearthed and the Postal service loses some one among its highest officers. The money market is in a rather feverish state and speculations of stocks are likely to be quick, especially near the time of this ingress and along about the 8th, 14th, and 17th of April.

Mars in the 5th house, cautions those in charge of theaters and places of amusement as well as seaside resorts and hotels to have unusual care that fire is not allowed to prove disastrous. It is apprehended that the fire losses for the quarter will be somewhat in excess of the average.

Saturn dignified and in north Latitude is said to signify that the air for the quarter will be temperate and healthy. Jupiter in Sagittarius is said to presignify a temperate air in the beginning of winter but unusual cold at the end of winter. We may, therefore, look for colder ranges of temperature in the first days of March with abundant downfall of rain and snow, as Mars is at the quarter round in Pisces.

Lung and liver troubles are to be particularly guarded against during this spring quarter also quite a prevalence of affections to the head and eyes. In these respects our Chief Executive is invited to have more than usual care.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR MARCH, 1900.

MARCH. 1—Thursday. The early hours are not chosen for any important work; but as the day advances let best attention be given to all classes of literary engagements, matters of account and record, mail and newspaper work, correspondence, mathematical and scientific labors, and travel; be sure not to use the early forenoon for applications.

2—Friday. Begin this day early on the lines laid down for the preceding day and crowd all efforts until 4 o'clock in the afternoon for furthering all engagements with the pen and with persons in the literary pursuits; let the forenoon be fully employed for all commercial transactions of consequence, but urge all matters early as they are likely to drag or be fruitless of continuing far into afternoon; the latter half of the day is adverse for successful issue of dealings concerned with houses and lands when also it will be wise to avoid dealing with thy landlord and to suspend negotiations as to such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber and grain.

3—Saturday. Urge general business vigorously during the forenoon, when have dealings with persons of prominence or wealth not concerned in public office; seek money accommodations; buy and sell conservatively for trade, especially in the nature of woolsens, silks, and clothing generally; hold the temper as the noon hours are passed.

4—Sunday. A favorable Sabbath day, encouraging lofty sentiment and elevating religious discourse; the later hours incline to recreation and amusement rather than sober contemplation.

5—Monday. Use this day for making applications for favor or advantage from public authorities, large corporate bodies, associations and organizations and from all persons in authority over thee; postpone correspondence for the evening and be very chary of initiating any literary venture of consequence during the next 24 hours; the intellectual classes will be adversely disturbed and matters of contract, account, and correspondence will seem to drag in a peculiar manner; be cautious what writings are signed and see that no deceit is practiced upon thee for a season.

6—Tuesday. Indifferent in the forenoon, but as the day advances let all honorable undertakings be urged to the utmost; when also let all routine matters of contract, commercial and financial be conducted, and correspondence and travel be done as the afternoon progresses.

7—Wednesday. Look sharp here or the purse will suffer serious depletions or losses; speculation is peculiarly hazardous, as values are likely to be suddenly changeable and flighty; these suggestions are peculiarly appropriate for persons born about the 1st of March, June and September, of past years; as conditions are conducive to serious shrinkings of property values in those lives and they are cautioned also to conserve the health as regards the liver and lungs; caution is likewise intended for this month to such persons in regard to losses from fire and explosion and there are likely to be some very destructive conflagrations involving extraordinary property losses; let all have care in handling combustibles and explosives; a marked antagonism seems to be engendered between mechanics and organized capital and this day contributes to its development; ecclesiastical affairs suffer detriment during these middle days of March and religious denominations meet adverse experiences; beware of entering upon any new venture at this time, especially if one that is outside of thy regular and legitimate avocation.

8—Thursday. Diligently improve the benefic influences which prevail on this day for all the elegant pursuits; in artistic and musical matters conditions favor happy progress and REGULUS advises his friends to crowd such engagements to the utmost; landscape work and the animal painting have very helpful influences; more than usual pleasure will be had from the social, musical or dramatic entertainment of the evening.

9—Friday. The forenoon is peculiarly unpropitious and bids thee postpone important writings and correspondence and all the major commercial enterprises until the afternoon hours have no transactions pertaining to real estate; embarrassments and unusual annoy-

ances are likely to come to editors, authors, booksellers, publishers, printers, mathematicians, surveyors, lawyers, and judges; especially if born about the 24th of March, 26th of June, or 24th of September or December, of past years; the afternoon is best for the pursuit of the ingenious and mechanical trades and for dealings with glass-workers, iron and brass founders, bakers, butchers, and the manufacturing classes.

10—Saturday. Urge general business on this day; seek favor from public officials and persons in authority in thy business associations.

11—Sunday. Not a favorable Sabbath day, especially for appreciation or enjoyment of the elegant in literature or art.

12—Monday. A day of excellent promise, inviting travel, business activity, and enterprise; have transactions relating to patents and trade-marks, also with banking institutions, trust companies, public treasurers and the financial officers of large corporations; buy goods to sell again and generally urge all important undertakings.

13—Tuesday. Sign no writings pertaining to mining matters nor have any transaction in houses or lands or agricultural products during the forenoon; the afternoon should have the preference for all dealings of consequence.

14—Wednesday. Give attention during the forenoon hours to matters concerned with real estate and its improvement or decoration; deal in house furnishings and urge the elegant occupations and polite arts; the landscape painter, architect, and horticulturalist are peculiarly favored here and dealers in drugs, linens, wines and cordials should use this forenoon for effecting their principal engagements; the dramatist and musician are also encouraged to be active in their enterprises during the early hours; the latter part of the day is peculiarly mischievous for financial matters, indicating losses from haste or impetuosity or through the fiery or destructive elements; let all have care as the night advances that no opportunity is allowed for fires from carelessness; combustion will be very ready during these middle days of the month and probably more than usually mischievous during the night hours between the 14th and 15th. Some unusual discord in church circles is indicated hereabouts and those in charge of church buildings should be particularly on the alert against loss from fire. The time is peculiarly evil in a financial sense for persons born about the 1st of March, June and September, of past years, and the majority of such persons are in danger of bad losses in business or embarrassing circumstances hinder best progress in the enterprises in which they are engaged; such persons should avoid speculation nor should they precipitate litigation in their affairs.

15—Thursday. Do not court or marry on this day nor should much progress be looked for in any of the elegant pursuits; social and musical entertainments are not favored for the evening.

16—Friday. The day is peculiarly evil for the inauguration of any matter of importance; avoid having any transaction pertaining to real estate and keep out of mines, wells, and all underground places and away from tottering walls and insecure scaffolding, especially if born about the 3rd of March, 2d of June, 5th of September or 8th of December, of past years; and those so born should have care of their persons, if compelled to be about machinery, unruly animals, or where explosives are stored and should have best care of health as there is danger of serious trouble with lungs and liver.

17—Saturday. After the morning hours planetary conditions are much more promising than usual and encourage the vigorous prosecution of all honorable undertakings; buy goods for trade, adjust accounts, make collections and have financial transactions of consequence; not, however, use the early forenoon for any of the important moves in the literary world.

18—Sunday. The mind is much concerned with religious matters and discourses will be earnest and eloquent; the evening is more contentious and out of harmony.

19—Monday. This day encourages dealings with the laboring classes and promotes advantage from transactions with plumbers, tinners, and building contractors; seek favor from thy landlord in the forenoon; do not use the evening for any social entertainment nor for important efforts in musical or dramatic undertakings.

20—Tuesday. Begin this day early and urge business with dealers in hardware, cutlery, firearms, metals, glassware, brass and iron work and chemical and electrical materials and apparatus and also with persons engaged in the ingenious and mechanical trades; the afternoon is not to be depended upon for good.

21—Wednesday. Have dealings on this day with public officers or the managing authorities or superintendents in great corporations or upon large public works; urge correspondence and literary matters generally; sign writings of all kinds; engage servants, travel, remove, and have engagements pertaining to finances and dealings with persons of wealth.

22—Thursday. Use the early hours for financial negotiations and for making collections; but have care as the noon is approached not to permit haste or precipitancy to mar the measure of thy success; in the afternoon and evening avoid all rashness of word or act and be not easily moved to wrath; the day is peculiarly dangerous for surgical operations and it is, at the same time, strangely conducive to classes of accidents such as require the aid of surgery; let all have care against permitting excitement to run away with temper or judgment.

23—Friday. The middle hours are the best in this day, in which the best efforts in business should be expended; but as the afternoon is passing there begins a range of adverse influences covering about 36 hours in which little encouragement is had for any very important moves in life. The latter part of this day is unpromising for the gentle sex and warns those who are matrimonially inclined to shun such engagements if their desire be for peace and happiness in the married state; scrutinize very carefully all business enterprises offering themselves in the latter part of the day and first half of the next; for no matter how flattering the promises, the outcome threatens to be very unfortunate; this is peculiarly true for persons claiming this day as the anniversary of their birthday or who were born about the 26th of June, 23rd of September, or 27th of December, of past years.

24—Saturday. Strange occurrences will seem to baffle thine efforts during the early hours of this day, nor shouldst thou be disappointed if success does not crown thine efforts in any direction; sign no writings, do no correspondence, make no bargains concerning houses or lands nor make any attempt to gain favor or advantage from thy superiors; do not be deceived by appearances nor representations in purchase of goods but satisfy thyself carefully that no hidden defects exist; purchases of goods for trade are much better deferred for a season.

25—Sunday. A day in which the musical portion of religious worship will be unusually happy and effective, though the afternoon is to be less commended than the early part of the day.

26—Monday. Begin this day with the sun and improve every moment; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler, and all engaged in literary pursuits or hiring employment concerning books are particularly favored. Let all have care of contracts as to legal matters and money transactions and all important movements for intellectual improvement and educational interests be now made. Give preference to the afternoon for dealings with bankers, judges, and persons of wealth or prominence.

27—Tuesday. Undertake nothing of importance in the forenoon of this day, particularly in either the literary or artistic pursuits, when also defer thy purchases of wearing apparel until a more favorable time; the afternoon is more promising.

28—Wednesday. The first half of this day encourages association with the aged and the active pursuit of all general business, but preferences may be given to dealings in real estate, boots and shoes, dyes, wool, lead, coal, lumber and all classes of building materials; beware of any speculative deal in the afternoon when losses and financial set-backs are more likely to be the rule of the time; watch thine expenditures and live within thy means.

29—Thursday. An unpromising forenoon, cautioning avoidance of disputes and domestic infelicities, especially in natives susceptible in this respect; seek no favor from railroad officials nor from persons high in public office; urge correspondence and the adjustment of literary matters in the afternoon.

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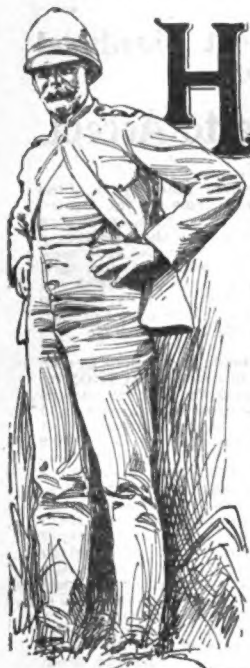
Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler or pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of forty-four first-class tools, as shown in the above cut, viz: 1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for irons; 1 shoemaker's work; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. steel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for harnessing, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering all securely packed together with directions for use in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately would cost between \$7.00 and \$9.00. You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repairs of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and fling saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are full sized, practical, neat and cheap. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for \$5.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs., will be sent by freight complete as above described for only \$1.65 which includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HEAVY were the hearts of all Americans when it was announced in the press dispatches that General Henry Lawton had fallen, shot by a rifleman in the thicket, while he was inspecting the firing line on his advance into the rebellious provinces in Luzon. Conspicuously attired in a yellow rain coat and white helmet, he was a mark for every sharpshooter; but no remonstrances were sufficiently strong to cause him to take any precautions for his own safety, and he seemed not to know the meaning of the word fear.

Thus while leading an expedition, every day of which was attended with great success, he was shot and instantly killed. His body was brought back to Manila, where his family were and carried with military honors to a returning American transport for transmission to America. In General Lawton's death the country has lost one of her most gallant and conspicuous soldiers. His career has been a notable one and he has won distinction for bravery and merit in three wars. Our readers will remember that this department contained a condensed sketch of his services and a portrait only a short time ago. The initial cut at the commencement of this article is from a photograph taken just as he was entering his last campaign.

A pleasant characteristic of the American people has been shown by his death. It became generally known immediately after that his family would be left in comparatively destitute circumstances and a movement spontaneously shaped itself in many parts of the country to give them material relief. The Secretary of War, Mr. Root, organized the forces and within a few days subscriptions to the amount of \$50,000 which was the desired sum, had flowed into the proper depositories for the fund.

The American people are wonderfully charitable. Other people expect governmental reward, but it is characteristic of our countrymen to give subscriptions of money individually. Only a short time ago Sergeant "Bill" Anthony, the marine who reported the disaster to Capt. Sigsbee when the Maine was blown up in Havana harbor, became discouraged and suicided in one of the parks of New York City. It became known to the public immediately after that his family was without means of support, and at once the generous-souled Americans subscribed enough money to decently bury him and to comfortably support the family which he had left behind.

Immediately after Gen. Lawton's tragic death, Hon. John Barrett, formerly minister to Siam, at a dinner given by the New England Society in New York on December 22d read a letter from him written in November, saying that should he be shot down by a Filipino bullet it would really be the work of the American sympathizers, as the war would have been over months ago but for the sympathy a few Americans had extended to the insurgents. This letter has caused a profound sensation. There have been several attempts to have the question considered by Congress.

Meanwhile the war in the Philippines has degenerated into a pursuit of bands of guerillas. The successes are all on our side, but under the conditions there can be no great victories, or even battles. Aguinaldo is still fleeing, though almost all of his relatives are captives. A plot was laid for an uprising in Manila but it failed to materialize. It is probable that the war may last some time or its collapse may come at any time. Guerilla fighting is always an uncertain matter in time.

COMFORT recently reported the departure of Archbishop Chapelle, the papal delegate to the Philippines. It will be remembered that almost all the Filipinos are devout Roman Catholics and the government hopes for much assistance from the Archbishop in settling disturbing questions in the archipelago. He arrived in Manila January 2nd on the transport Sherman. The various brotherhoods of friars, which have held such immense influence in the islands are much disturbed as to the future and everything is being done to influence him and Father McKinnon, who accompanied him,

either for or against the friars. Inasmuch as the question of the expulsion of the friars from the islands and the freedom of the people from the orders has always been declared to be the principal cause of the revolt of the natives against Spain's sovereignty, longtime residents of the islands declare if the priests are returned to their former parishes, the natives seeing them return under American administration, will surely attack and kill them and otherwise cause continued disorder.

While there is intense interest and much curiosity as to the intentions of the Roman church in the islands, it is a matter of interest to know that in America much will be done to send missionaries out to the natives by the Protestant denominations. Naturally the Catholics have never allowed religious toleration in the islands, and for the first time another branch of Christian belief gains a foothold among the natives. The first step is to be the building of All Souls' church in Manila.

The Rev. John Krachen Pearce is to be the pastor, and the church is to be undenominational, unsectarian and is intended as a welcome home for any Christian. The pastor is to pay for the completed edifice from his private funds and it is estimated to cost \$150,000 when completed. The slate roof is from Bangor, Me. and interior furnishings from Boston, but the steel frame and stone are to be prepared in the islands. After the church is completed Dr. Pearce will build a club house for Athletics.

England has declared flour a contraband of war and her warships have seized several cargoes in American and German ships, evidently on their way to the Transvaal republic. This action being unprecedented in war has occasioned much comment in diplomatic circles. The flour being American has caused our Government to properly protest. Germany has done so in a yet more forcible way and it looks as if international complications might arise over this British construction of International law. It is not likely, however, that this country will do anything to embarrass England in the struggle going on in South Africa, although the Continental powers would like to intervene if possible, and especially if such intervention would humiliate Great Britain.

Just after our own Civil war a Fenian brotherhood of Irishmen prepared to invade Canada. There was a strong feeling between the countries at the time, growing out of England's attitude during the great struggle between the states. Apparently there was to be a great army cross the border and drills were known to be going on. Soldiers were prepared on both sides of the line; but in the end the invasion failed to materialize and became a joke for all. Recently, for a few mornings, the press teemed with dispatches promising a similar invasion; but so little attention was paid that the subject fell flat. It is supposed this was inspired to frighten Canadian authorities from sending any more soldiers to the Boer war.

The magnanimity of the American government has again been most strikingly illustrated by its decision relative to the repatriation of Spaniards which was made public during the holidays. In the treaty of peace the United States agreed to procure the release of Spanish prisoners in the Philippines and to return them home. Various terms were employed in the different parts of the agreement to designate the classes of persons entitled to a free passage from the Philippines; thus they are spoken of as "Spanish soldiers," "Spanish prisoners," "prisoners in the hands of the insurgents," etc. The decision is of the broadest character and allows not only actual soldier prisoners but also every Spaniard, who by the exigencies of war was compelled to remain within the insurgent lines, this great privilege. While the number is far greater than the signatories contemplated, the American people will willingly pay the bill, believing that the effects of such generosity will go far towards healing the scars of war.

Much has been said and written of our policy in China and of the attitude we should take in our dealings with other nations interested in the Far East. The negotiations opened by Secretary Hay with the great powers of Europe and with the Japanese Empire relative to a common understanding of what is called the open door policy throughout China, seem to have met with unqualified success. As it is the intention of the President to make the question the subject of a special message to Congress, it is not possible to obtain full particulars at the present

time, but enough has been given out to the public for all to know that Great Britain, Russia, France, Germany and Japan have all answered favorably to the American suggestion. Only one country, Italy, failed to respond but it is believed she will do as the others have indicated. Should this plan be carried out all countries would have equal rights in trade in China, no matter what other country actually possessed the port.

Among the very notable events of last month was the dining of 20,000 people at a Christmas feast in Madison Square Garden by the Salvation Army of New York City. Besides this great feast over five thousand basket dinners were sent to poor families. Such deeds show how alive the real spirit of Christianity is among our people to-day.

The condition of American interests in Cuba remains about the same. Major-General Brooke, who has been governor of the island since its evacuation by the Spanish, has been recalled, and it is said will be placed in com-

mand of one of the western departments in this country. He has been an efficient governor, but some of his acts have been severely criticised and it is stated that his recall was decidedly unpleasant to him. The President has appointed General Leonard Wood, who has so successfully governed at Santiago, as provisional governor of Cuba. To do this it was necessary to appoint him major-general in the army which was done immediately on the assembling of Congress. It is believed that General Wood has the entire confidence of the Cubans, and the progressive methods and tact which he has displayed in the subordinate position at Santiago give full promise of a distinguished career in regenerating Havana and Cuba.

Among the sadder bits of news for the month has been the breaking down in health of Hon. Chas. A. Boutelle, representative in Congress from the 4th Maine district. Suffering from a complication of diseases, his mind has been somewhat clouded and it has been necessary to withdraw him from public life and place him in a sanitarium for treatment. He has had a very distinguished career in public life, and has been noted as a stalwart fighter on the floors of Congress. He has served for nearly twenty years, and at the present time is on several of the most important committees, being chairman of the committee on naval affairs which practically has control of the American Navy. His illness is remarkable from the fact that the Maine delegation in Congress served together for many years, and by their long service commanded a strength possessed by not even such large states as New York and Pennsylvania. Two years ago, one member, Mr. Milliken, died. This was followed by the death of Nelson Dingley, one of the most distinguished statesmen of his time, representing the second district; and immediately after, Hon. Thomas B. Reed, Speaker of the last House of Representatives, withdrew from public life, resigning his seat in Congress. If the present illness of Capt. Boutelle should entirely incapacitate him, the entire Maine delegation in the lower house will have changed within two years. This delegation has often been held up to the public to show how much the system of keeping trained men who prove faithful in Congress would accomplish; and, as above suggested, notwithstanding the small number of representatives, their training, ability and coherence have given them a strength in the nation entirely disproportionate to their numbers or the state they represented.

It is a notable thing that this Maine system of reward for good services has trained Maine men into being among the greatest statesmen in America; and only two years ago the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which is the second most important office in the country, the Chief Justice of the United States, and the Vice President pro tem. of the Senate, were all Maine men. In one of the sessions of Congress, during the '70s, when Mr. Blaine was Speaker of the House of Representatives, out of a membership of approximately three hundred men, over ten per



HON. C. A. BOUTELLE.

proximately three hundred



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MAJOR-GENERAL BROOKE.

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